

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales · Charity number 269535

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1975-07-03

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

Contact

Address Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Rye Harbour Road
Rye Harbour
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7FW

Phone 01797360960

Email jvr.baker52@aol.co.uk

Website <https://www.rhnrfriends.co.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER THE CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF THE RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (FOR DETAILS, SEE CLAUSE 2 OF CONSTITUTION).

Activities: The charity supports all aspects of the management of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in East Sussex by providing finance, volunteer assistance, staff accommodation and advice. Meetings and events for members of the charity are held to assist with fund raising.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** AREA COVERED BY RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE
- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£95,667	£86,454	-	-
2024-03-31	£70,251	£70,104	-	-
2023-03-31	£90,393	£48,545	-	-
2022-03-31	£82,350	£84,218	-	-
2021-03-31	£128,736	£154,551	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN JOHN MARTIN		2022-12-08
Anne Yates		2023-12-03
Christine Mary George		2022-12-08
David Bentley		2023-12-03
Dr Barry Yates		2024-10-11
Dr Claire Bayntun		2022-06-30
James Tomlinson		2022-05-17
John Victor Robert Baker		2019-09-09
LINDA MARIE WREN		2020-08-20
PATRICK FRANCIS BONHAM		
Philip Jones		2025-10-11
STEPHEN GEORGE MASTERS		2022-06-30

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 269535

Accounts

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Charity Registration No. 269535 (England and Wales)

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity registration number: 269535 (England and Wales)

Trustees

Barry Yates: Chairman
John Baker: Hon. Secretary
Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary
Claire Bayntun
David Bentley
Christine George
Stephen Masters
James Tomlinson
Linda Wren
Anne Yates

Independent examiner

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA
Holland Harper LLP
26 High Street
Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
New Romney Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Charity office

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Rye Harbour Road
Rye
East Sussex TN31 7FW

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Members and those who have served during the year are as follows

Dr Barry Yates: Chairman (appointed 12th October 2024)

John Baker: Hon. Secretary

Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer

Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary

Claire Bayntun

David Bentley

Catherine Emmitt (resigned 12th October 2024)

Christine George

Stephen Masters

James Tomlinson

Linda Wren

Anne Yates

Constitution and Objects

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 31st May 1974 and is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 269535. The trustees shall hold the Trust Fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objectives:

- assisting the management of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve through voluntary work and contributions.
- fundraising by way of subscription and activities and organising local publicity for the Nature Reserve.
- recruiting members to support the Nature Reserve.
- co-operating with other Local Bodies and Authorities and SWT taking all such other steps as may from time to time be necessary to preserve the interests of the Nature Reserve.
- to do all such things and to take all such measures as may be considered to be in the interest of the Nature Reserve at the discretion of the group and with the approval of the Management Committee and SWT or such other body as shall from time to time be responsible for the running of the Nature Reserve.

Review of developments, activities and achievements – Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve had another encouraging year, reporting a financial surplus of income over expenditure of just £9,213. This surplus when added to the brought forward balance left the Friends at the end of the year with financial reserves of £712,818, of which £250,281 was in cash or deposit accounts.

Whilst membership income continues to be the largest source of income at £24,124 plus Gift Aid of £4,717, the charity also received legacies of £34,191 and general donations of a further £8,274. Sales of Friends badged items (such as the three books it has published, tea towels, coasters and greeting cards) sold primarily through the Discovery Centre and local shops, contributed a profit of £2,611. A further £2,892 was generated from a combination of sales from the Craft Group, second-hand books and donations made at the monthly talks held for members on the second Saturday of every month. The major expenditure in the year was the £74,343 donated to the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) towards salary costs and equipment for the reserve.

The Trustees met formally on seven occasions during the year in addition to the AGM in October, but were regularly in contact through less formal meetings and email correspondence in order to progress Friends business. Separate meetings were also held regularly with representatives of the SWT, both with regard to the ongoing management of the Nature Reserve but also to discuss the operation and development of the Discovery Centre. There was a field meeting with SWT directors and managers in June at another SWT reserve to foster good relationships, and the trustees were consulted and gave feedback on SWT's new management plan for the nature reserve. At the AGM Catherine Emmitt resigned as a trustee after serving for eight years, and a new Chairman, Dr Barry Yates was elected – he had retired as the SWT site manager in April 2023. This takes the total number of current trustees to eleven.

The number of members at the end of the year was 2,085 a slight increase from the previous year. Members receive three Newsletters a year with 1,020 being sent out electronically and 407 by second- class mail. Reducing the number of hard copy subscribers even further will reduce the

printing costs, and encouraging more members to sign up for Gift Aid will boost our income. With David Bentley as the new editor of the Newsletter and volunteer Victoria Pope as the new designer, the publication took on a new look that was well received by members. This new look was also reflected in new recruitment posters.

One of the most important opportunities to engage face to face with members is through the monthly 'Friends Days' which are held on the second Saturday of each month in the Discovery Centre. These days included a morning guided walk around the reserve and then an illustrated talk in the afternoon on topics of local wildlife or local history, with stalls of used books and the Friends craft group. There was also a monthly guided walk on a Sunday later in the month.

Many of the Friends committee and members are actively involved in supporting the work of SWT at the nature reserve by volunteering for them – one of these events is the monthly 'Guide in a Hide' that often enables 100-200 people to experience, perhaps for the first time, birds through binoculars and telescopes with the assistance of knowledgeable volunteers.

Projects supported during the year included the purchase of thermal imaging equipment to monitor the wildlife at night, repairs to a hide, and subsidising the costs to enable some smaller local schools to visit the reserve. The Friends also continued to provide financial support to cover the operational costs of the reserve and education team, which was especially important as the HLF funding for the Discovery Centre has now ended.

Since it was established in 1973, the Friends has always supported projects and work to improve special wildlife and to improve facilities for visitors. This has made an enormous difference to this special place and has only been possible through the support and encouragement of our members, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

This contribution by many individuals over five decades was recently recognised. In November 2024 it was announced that the Friends had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) and the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant was made to the group before an invited audience of fifty supporters in March 2025. Equivalent to an MBE, the KAVS is the highest award that can be given to a local voluntary group in the UK, and it is awarded for life. The crystal award and citation is on display at the Discovery Centre.

Whilst the ultimate responsibility for managing Rye Harbour Nature Reserve lies with the SWT, they can only provide the current level of reserve management, education work and visitor engagement with the support of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Review of financial transactions

The financial statements as set out on pages 7 to 12 summarise the transactions of the charity during the year ended 31 March 2025, at which date there was a surplus for the year of £9,213 (2024: a surplus of £147), which when added to the funds brought forward of £703,605 leaves total funds to be carried forward of £712,818.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain a level of reserves which will provide a stable base for its continuing activities while at the same time ensuring excessive funds are not accumulated. The trustees believe that the free reserves of £250,281 are sufficient for its current purposes and these are reviewed on a regular basis.

Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting grant making policies. They will only provide grants which clearly demonstrate public benefit.

Dr Barry Yates
Chairman

Alan Martin
Honorary Treasurer

2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 Trust'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 Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA

2025

Holland Harper LLP
Chartered Accountants

26 High Street, Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from			
Membership subscriptions		24,124	24,569
Donations and legacies		42,465	18,967
Trading income		5,727	10,435
Gift Aid		4,717	4,854
Events		2,892	2,716
Interest		8,444	5,328
Other income		7,298	3,382
Total income		95,667	70,251
Expenditure on			
Nature reserve projects and salary contributions		74,343	38,182
Merchandise costs		3,116	7,076
Newsletters and leaflets		2,401	2,988
Legal and professional costs	7	2,313	3,719
Other expenses	7	4,215	18,079
Bank charges	7	66	60
Total expenditure		86,454	70,104
Net income/(expenditure)		9,213	147
Fund balances as at 1 April 2024		703,605	703,458
Property revaluation		-	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	6	712,818	703,605

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The figures shown for both years are all unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed Assets			
Freehold property	2	450,000	450,000
Current assets			
Cash at bank		42,756	36,036
Deposit accounts		207,525	204,972
Trading stock	3	4,439	5,341
Debtors and prepayments	4	9,581	9,042
Total current assets		264,301	255,391
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(1,483)	(1,786)
Net current assets		262,818	253,605
Net assets		712,818	703,605
Fund balances	6	712,818	703,605

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on behalf of the Board by:

Alan Martin
Honorary Treasurer

2025

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, (modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties). The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The functional currency of the charity is £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

1.3.1 Donations and gifts

Income is recognised in the year in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

1.3.2 Investment income

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3.3 Volunteer time

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP.

1.3.4 Trading income

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis including irrecoverable VAT, and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.6 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of any impairment losses.

It is not considered necessary to depreciate the freehold property held which is instead shown at a valuation in the accounts.

1.8 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. Tangible fixed assets

At 31 March 2025, had the revalued asset been carried at historic cost, the carrying amount would have been £48,000 (2024 - £48,000). It was revalued to £450,000 in April 2023 by two Rye-based Estate Agents, Rush, Witt & Wilson and Phillips & Stubbs.

The revaluation surplus is disclosed in note 6.

Freehold, Land & Buildings	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	450,000
Revaluation	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>450,000</u>

3. Trading stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening stock	5,341	3,140
Purchases	2,214	9,277
Less cost of sales	(3,116)	(7,076)
Closing stock	<u>4,439</u>	<u>5,341</u>

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors and prepayments	4,883	4,207
Gift Aid	4,698	4,835
Total debtors and prepayments	<u>9,581</u>	<u>9,042</u>

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

5. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions paid in advance	483	786
Stock purchases	-	-
Independent examination fees	1,000	1,000
Total creditors	1,483	1,786

6. Fund balances

	Unrestricted Funds	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	301,605	402,000	703,605
Surplus for the year	9,213	-	9,213
Land and buildings revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	310,818	402,000	712,818

7. Running costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examination fees	900	900
Insurance	1,413	1,819
Professional fees	-	1,000
Watch Cottage refurbishment	1,010	17,301
Other costs	3,205	778
Bank charges	66	60
Total costs	6,594	21,858

Running costs of the charity include governance costs and general administration. The Trustees, who are considered to be key management personnel, received no remuneration or expenses during the year (2024: £Nil).

8. Related party transactions

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year (2024: none).

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 269535

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 269535 (England and Wales)

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

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Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Legal and administrative information

Charity registration number: 269535 (England and Wales)

Trustees

John Baker: Hon. Secretary
Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary
Claire Bayntun
David Bentley
Catherine Emmitt
Christine George
Stephen Masters
James Tomlinson
Linda Wren
Anne Yates

Independent examiner

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA
Holland Harper LLP
26 High Street
Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
New Romney Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Charity office

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Rye Harbour Road
Rye
East Sussex TN31 7FW

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

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- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
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The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Members and those who have served during the year are as follows

Clifford Dean: Chair (resigned 14th October 2023)
Philip Jones: Vice-Chair (resigned 14th October 2023)
John Baker: Hon. Secretary
Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary
Claire Bayntun
David Bentley (appointed 3rd December 2023)
Catherine Emmitt
Christine George
Stephen Masters
James Tomlinson
Linda Wren
Anne Yates (appointed 3rd December 2023)

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2024

Constitution and Objects

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 31st May 1974 and is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 269535. The trustees shall hold the Trust Fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objectives:

- assisting the management of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve through voluntary work and contributions.
- fund raising by way of subscription and activities and organising local publicity for the Nature Reserve.
- recruiting members to support the Nature Reserve.
- co-operating with other Local Bodies and Authorities and SWT taking all such other steps as may from time to time be necessary to preserve the interests of the Nature Reserve.
- to do all such things and to take all such measures as may be considered to be in the interest of the Nature Reserve at the discretion of the group and with the approval of the Management Committee and SWT or such other body as shall from time to time be responsible for the running of the Nature Reserve.

Review of developments, activities and achievements – Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve had another encouraging year, reporting a small financial surplus of income over expenditure of just £147 despite spending £17,301 on refurbishing Watch Cottage before its new tenant moved in. This surplus when added to the brought forward balance left the Friends at the end of the year with financial reserves of £703,605, of which £241,008 was in cash or deposit accounts.

Whilst membership income continues to be the largest source of income at £24,569 plus Gift Aid of £4,854, the charity also received legacies of £7,327 and general donations of a further £11,640. Sales of Friends badged items (such as the three books it has published, tea towels, coasters and greeting cards) sold primarily through the Discovery Centre and local shops, contributed a profit of £3,359. A further £2,716 was generated from a combination of sales from the Craft Group, second-hand books and donations made at the monthly talks held for members on the second Saturday of every month. Apart from the costs of refurbishing Watch Cottage, the major expenditure in the year was the £31,000 donated to the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) towards salary costs and £7,182 contributed towards a new film promoting the nature reserve, a sound recording workshop and a new outdoor structure to be used by visiting school children.

The Trustees met formally on 6 occasions during the year in addition to the AGM in October, but were regularly in contact through less formal meetings and email correspondence in order to progress Friends business. Separate meetings were also held regularly with representatives of the SWT, both with regard to the ongoing management of the Nature Reserve but also to discuss the operation and development of the Discovery Centre. At the AGM both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman resigned after many years of excellent service, but both remain active volunteers especially leading walks around the nature reserve. Replacements for these key roles have yet to be found, but meanwhile the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are covering these duties in addition to their own. Two new trustees were welcomed to the committee in October, taking the total number of trustees to eleven.

**Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

The number of members at the end of the year was 1,961, a slight drop from the previous year, which was the main subject of the trustees' meeting in January 2024 with a number of actions agreed. One of the most important opportunities to engage with members is through the monthly 'Friends Days' which are held on the second Saturday of each month in the Discovery Centre. Since May 2023 these events have included a series of afternoon talks covering a range of subjects all relevant to the local area including for example The Bees of Sussex by James Power, Winchelsea Wildlife by Michael Howard and Sea Side Flowers by Barry Yates. All these talks have been oversubscribed, and an extensive programme to continue the talks has been agreed for the 2024-25 season. Similarly the 'Guide in a Hide' events, which are open to anyone have continued and have been attended by over 1,800 people including 341 children. Such events are a great way to attract new members, but more importantly to encourage an interest in the exceptional wildlife of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. One young lad who saw a Kingfisher for the first time went straight into the Discovery Centre with his mother to buy a bird book and excitedly ran out to show our guide the picture of it; incidents like this make us determined to keep these events going.

At the end of December 2023 we were notified that the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex had requested his deputies to carry out an assessment of the Friends for a possible nomination to be given a King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS). Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest award that can be given to a local voluntary group in the UK, and they are awarded for life. The deputies have now completed their assessment and the Friends have been notified that they are being nominated for an award, with the final announcement of the winners to be made in the autumn of 2024. Regardless of the outcome, it is a great honour to be considered eligible for such a high award.

The next year should be an exciting one for the Friends and for Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. The new Site Manager, Dr Paul Tinsley-Marshall, is working on a new management plan for the reserve and the Discovery Centre Manager, Gesine Garz, is restructuring her teams as the Heritage Lottery Funding comes to an end. Both programmes will need financial investment, and with its relatively high level of cash reserves the Friends are well-placed to provide support where needed. This has only been possible through the support and encouragement of our members, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

Review of financial transactions

The financial statements as set out on pages 7 to 12 summarise the transactions of the charity during the year ended 31 March 2024, at which date there was a surplus for the year of £147 (2023: a surplus of £41,848), which when added to the funds brought forward of £703,458 leaves total funds to be carried forward of £703,605.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain a level of reserves which will provide a stable base for its continuing activities while at the same time ensuring excessive funds are not accumulated. The trustees believe that the free reserves of £253,605 are sufficient for its current purposes and these are reviewed on a regular basis.

Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

**Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting grant making policies. They will only provide grants which clearly demonstrate public benefit.

John Baker
Honorary Secretary

Alan Martin
Honorary Treasurer

2024

**Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 Trust'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 Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA

2024

**Holland Harper LLP
Chartered Accountants**

26 High Street, Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from			
Membership subscriptions		24,569	24,992
Donations and legacies		18,967	36,404
Trading income		10,435	11,540
Gift Aid		4,854	11,388
Events		2,716	2,365
Interest		5,328	1,700
Other income		3,382	2,004
Total income		70,251	90,393
Expenditure on			
Nature reserve projects and salary contributions		38,182	34,291
Merchandise costs		7,076	6,963
Newsletters and leaflets		2,988	1,912
Legal and professional costs	7	3,719	3,274
Other expenses	7	18,078	2,006
Bank charges	7	60	99
Total expenditure		70,104	48,545
Net income/(expenditure)		147	41,848
Fund balances as at 1 April 2023		703,458	961,610
Property revaluation		-	(300,000)
Fund balances at 31 March 2024	6	703,605	703,458

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The figures shown for both years are all unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed Assets			
Freehold property	2	450,000	450,000
Current assets			
Cash at bank		36,036	57,818
Deposit accounts		204,972	188,819
Trading stock	3	5,341	3,140
Debtors and prepayments	4	9,042	6,088
Total current assets		255,391	255,865
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(1,786)	(2,407)
Net current assets		253,605	253,458
Net assets		703,605	703,458
Fund balances	6	703,605	703,458

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on behalf of the Board by:

Alan Martin
Honorary Treasurer

2024

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

These financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 are the first financial statements of Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 April 2021. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, (modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties). The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The functional currency of the charity is £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

1.3.1 Donations and gifts

Income is recognised in the year in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2024

1.3.2 Investment income

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3.3 Volunteer time

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP.

1.3.4 Trading income

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis including irrecoverable VAT, and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.6 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of any impairment losses.

It is not considered necessary to depreciate the freehold property held which is instead shown at a valuation in the accounts.

1.8 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Tangible fixed assets

At 31 March 2024, had the revalued asset been carried at historic cost, the carrying amount would have been £48,000 (2023 - £48,000). It was revalued to £450,000 in April 2023 by two Rye-based Estate Agents, Rush, Witt & Wilson and Phillips & Stubbs.

The revaluation surplus is disclosed in note 6.

Freehold, Land & Buildings	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2023	450,000
Revaluation	-
At 31 March 2024	450,000

3. Trading stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening stock	3,140	2,388
Purchases	9,277	7,715
Less cost of sales	(7076)	(6,963)
Closing stock	5,341	3,140

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors and prepayments	4,207	639
Gift Aid	4,835	5,449
Total debtors and prepayments	9,042	6,088

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions paid in advance	786	1,383
833 Lottery	-	24
Stock purchases	-	-
Independent examination fees	1,000	1,000
Total creditors	1,786	2,407

6. Fund balances

	Unrestricted Funds	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	301,458	402,000	703,458
Surplus for the year	147	-	147
Land and buildings revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	301,605	402,000	703,605

7. Running costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination fees	900	1,160
Insurance	1,819	1,914
Professional fees	1,000	200
Watch Cottage refurbishment	17,301	-
Other costs	778	2,006
Bank charges	60	99
Total costs	21,858	5,379

Running costs of the charity include governance costs and general administration. The Trustees, who are considered to be key management personnel, received no remuneration or expenses during the year (2023: £Nil).

8. Related party transactions

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year (2023: none).

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 269535

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 269535 (England and Wales)

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

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Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Legal and administrative information

Charity registration number: 269535 (England and Wales)

Trustees

Clifford Dean: Chair
Philip Jones: Vice-Chair
John Baker: Hon. Secretary
Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer
Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary
Claire Bayntun
Catherine Emmitt
Christine George
Stephen Masters
James Tomlinson
Linda Wren

Independent examiner

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA
Holland Harper LLP
26 High Street
Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
New Romney Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Charity office

2 Watch Cottage
The Ridge
Winchelsea Beach
East Sussex TN36 4LU

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Members and those who have served during the year are as follows

Clifford Dean: Chair
Philip Jones: Vice-Chair
John Baker: Hon. Secretary
Alan Martin: Hon. Treasurer (*appointed 18th January 2023*)
Patrick Bonham: Membership Secretary
John Barnes (*resigned 8th October 2022*)
Claire Bayntun (*appointed 8th October 2022*)
Catherine Emmitt
Christine George (*appointed 18th January 2023*)
Stephen Masters (*appointed 8th October 2022*)
Sheena Morgan (*resigned 18th January 2023*)
Michael Russell (*resigned 18th January 2023*)
James Tomlinson

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

John Trowell (*resigned 8th October 2022*)

John Willsher (*resigned 8th October 2022*)

Linda Wren

Constitution and Objects

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 31st May 1974 and is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 269535. The trustees shall hold the Trust Fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objectives:

- assisting the management of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve through voluntary work and contributions.
- fund raising by way of subscription and activities and organising local publicity for the Nature Reserve.
- recruiting members to support the Nature Reserve.
- co-operating with other Local Bodies and Authorities and SWT taking all such other steps as may from time to time be necessary to preserve the interests of the Nature Reserve.
- to do all such things and to take all such measures as may be considered to be in the interest of the Nature Reserve at the discretion of the group and with the approval of the Management Committee and SWT or such other body as shall from time to time be responsible for the running of the Nature Reserve.

Review of developments, activities and achievements - Chair's Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve had another successful year with membership rising to its highest ever total of 2,190, and a financial surplus of income over expenditure of £41,848. Despite the downward revaluation of Watch Cottage by £300,000, this surplus when added to the brought forward balance left the Friends with financial reserves of £703,458 at the end of the year of which £246,637 was in cash or deposit accounts.

During the year 194 new members were recruited, less than the post-lockdown resurgence of 311 in the previous year, but still a notable achievement perhaps reflecting the improved online recruitment and the active role of our Membership Secretary in reminding lapsed members. Four newsletters were sent out and members were kept informed of activities and events through numerous postings on Facebook, as well as the website which is currently undergoing a re-design. Following the disruptions resulting from the Covid pandemic our programme of afternoon talks has now re-commenced for the remainder of 2023, and the Discovery Centre has hosted a Friends Open Day on the second Saturday of each month where second-hand books and craft items are sold. The Friends have also organised short and extended monthly walks as well as supporting those advertised by the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT). The monthly 'Guide in a Hide' events have proved extremely successful and a 'Guide in a Train' was also run in conjunction with the Kent & East Sussex Railways.

The three books published by the Friends, The Shingle Shore, A New Way of Looking and Flowers of the Seashore continue to sell well from the Discovery Centre and local bookshops, and the other Friends badged products such as mugs, coasters and tea towels are also popular. Sales of these products increased by 40% over the previous year.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

During the year there were a number of changes to the committee, with long-standing Trustees John Barnes, John Trowell, John Willsher, Sheena Morgan and Mike Russell retiring to be replaced by new

Trustees Claire Bayntun and Stephen Masters, while former Trustee Alan Martin has returned to the committee after a 3-year break. Apart from their distinct committee responsibilities, the retirees have all played a vital role over recent years in steering the Friends through the creation and development of the Discovery Centre, and we owe them our thanks. Whilst Sheena Morgan has stepped down as a Trustee she has agreed to continue to edit our Newsletter. As a committee we have yet to reach equality on grounds of gender (7M/4F), the majority of Trustees are past retirement age (8/3) and ethnic diversity is very limited within the local community, but these facts are kept in mind and will be improved when possible.

The Trustees met formally on 7 occasions during the year in addition to the AGM in October, but were regularly in contact through less formal meetings and email correspondence in order to progress Friends business. Separate meetings were also held regularly with representatives of the SWT, both with regard to the ongoing management of the Nature Reserve but especially to discuss the operation and development of the Discovery Centre which is heavily dependent on the Friends' pool of volunteers. In addition, the planned changes to the SWT reserves management team and the planned retirement of the long-serving Rye Harbour manager, Dr Barry Yates, generated a number of high level meetings with SWT Directors to discuss these changes and how they would affect the reserve management and the Friends' role. In particular the Trustees were concerned about how these changes would affect the use of Watch Cottage which is owned by the Friends but has been used for many years by the reserve manager for his family, an office and a storage facility for equipment and materials. At the time of writing many of these issues remain unresolved and there are still 2 vacancies amongst the local SWT staff to be recruited. However, the Friends have determined that improvements are essential to bring Watch Cottage up to a better standard and the property has been revalued.

In order to bring the management of our charity more closely into line with the Charities Commission Code of Practice, we have engaged Stephen Gilbert (a Chartered Governance Professional) to guide us through a review of all our governance documents and processes. Following his attendance at an initial meeting a sub-group was formed (of Secretary, Treasurer, Claire Bayntun and Stephen Masters) to take this review forward and report back to the full Board of Trustees. Its initial focus has been on clarifying and updating our Mission, Vision and Strategy statements, to be followed by a clarification and the documentation of trustee roles.

On July 6th 2022 our Chair and the SWT Chief Executive Tor Lawrence were invited to an event where they were presented with a Sussex Heritage Trust Award in the Public and Community Category for the design of the Discovery Centre. This award, some 14 months after its opening, is further evidence of the success of the new visitor centre which could not have been possible without the extraordinary support that the project received from members of the Friends and local supporters.

One of the main reasons why the Friends' financial results were better in 2022-23 than in the previous year was because the financial contributions towards the running costs of the reserve (mainly salaries, equipment and fencing) were significantly less at only £34,291 against £72,818 in 2021-22. Finding the correct balance between short-term expenditure and longer-term investment in equipment and potential further land purchases is always difficult, but the Trustees are actively reviewing how best to support and improve all aspects of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the benefit of the increasing number of visitors that come to enjoy its wildlife and environment.

Review of financial transactions

The financial statements as set out on pages 7 to 12 summarise the transactions of the charity during the year ended 31 March 2023, at which date there was a surplus for the year of £41,848 (2022: a deficit of £4,908), which when added to the funds brought forward of £961,610 and after a downward revaluation of the freehold property by £300,000 leaves total funds to be carried forward of £703,458.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain a level of reserves which will provide a stable base for its continuing activities while at the same time ensuring excessive funds are not accumulated. The trustees believe that the free reserves of £253,458 are sufficient for its current purposes and these are reviewed on a regular basis.

Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting grant making policies. They will only provide grants which clearly demonstrate public benefit.

Cliff Dean
Signed on behalf of the board of Trustees

2023

**Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 Trust'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 Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Roy Holland BSc (Econ.), FCA

2023

**Holland Harper LLP
Chartered Accountants**

26 High Street, Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from			
Membership subscriptions		24,992	27,638
Donations and legacies		36,404	36,357
Trading income		11,540	8,377
Gift Aid		11,388	5,374
Events		2,365	2,037
Interest		1,700	1,205
Other income		2,004	1,615
Total income		90,393	82,603
Expenditure on			
Nature reserve projects and salary contributions		34,291	72,818
Merchandise costs		6,963	6,039
Newsletters and leaflets		1,912	2,730
Legal and professional costs	7	3,274	3,420
Other expenses	7	2,006	2,400
Bank charges	7	99	104
Total expenditure		48,545	87,511
Net income/(expenditure)		41,848	(4,908)
Fund balances as at 1 April 2022		961,610	966,518
Property revaluation		(300,000)	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	6	703,458	961,610

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The figures shown for both years are all unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fixed Assets			
Freehold property	2	450,000	750,000
Current assets			
Cash at bank		57,818	22,620
Deposit accounts		188,819	188,238
Trading stock	3	3,140	2,388
Debtors and prepayments	4	6,088	805
Total current assets		255,865	214,051
Creditors falling due within one year	5	(2,407)	(2,441)
Net current assets		253,458	211,610
Total assets		703,458	961,610
Fund balances	6	703,458	961,610

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on behalf of the Board by:

Clifford Dean
Chair of trustees

2023

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

These financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 are the first financial statements of Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 April 2021. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, (modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties). The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The functional currency of the charity is £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

1.3.1 Donations and gifts

Income is recognised in the year in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

1.3.2 Investment income

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3.3 Volunteer time

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP.

1.3.4 Trading income

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis including irrecoverable VAT, and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.6 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of any impairment losses.

It is not considered necessary to depreciate the freehold property held which is instead shown at a valuation in the accounts.

1.8 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Tangible fixed assets

Land and buildings with a carrying amount of £450,000 were revalued at 31 March 2023 by Rush Witt & Wilson, independent valuers not connected with the charity, on the basis of market value.

At 31 March 2023, had the revalued asset been carried at historic cost, the carrying amount would have been £48,000 (2022 - £48,000).

The revaluation surplus is disclosed in note 6.

Freehold, Land & Buildings	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2022	750,000
Revaluation	(300,000)
At 31 March 2023	450,000

3. Trading stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening stock	2,388	1,656
Purchases	7,715	6,780
Less cost of sales	(6,963)	(6,048)
Closing stock	3,140	2,388

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors and prepayments	639	805
Gift Aid	5,449	-
Total debtors and prepayments	6,088	805

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

5. Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions paid in advance	1,383	-
833 Lottery	24	-
Stock purchases	-	1,341
Independent examination fees	1,000	1,100
Total creditors	2,407	2,441

6. Fund balances

	Unrestricted	Revaluation	Total
	Funds	Reserve	£
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	259,610	702,000	961,610
Surplus for the year	41,848	-	41,848
Land and buildings revaluation	-	(300,000)	(300,000)
At 31 March 2023	301,458	402,000	703,458

7. Running costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examination fees	1,160	1,360
Insurance	1,914	2,060
Professional fees	200	-
Other costs	2,006	2,400
Bank charges	99	104
Total costs	5,379	5,924

Running costs of the charity include governance costs and general administration. The Trustees, who are considered to be key management personnel, received no remuneration or expenses during the year (2022: £Nil).

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 269535

Accounts



Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve 269535

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01-Apr-21 To 31-Mar-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations & Legacies	40,661	1,070	-	41,731	99,232
Membership Subscriptions	27,638	-	-	27,638	24,774
Trading Receipts	8,125	-	-	8,125	469
Events	2,036	-	-	2,036	-
Rental Income	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Sundry Income	615	-	-	615	1,457
Interest Received	1,205	-	-	1,205	1,804
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for A1)	81,280	1,070	-	82,350	128,736
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	81,280	1,070	-	82,350	128,736
A3 Payments					
Reserve Projects	12,848	-	-	12,848	11,590
Discovery Centre Project	-	6,070	-	6,070	106,194
Salary Contribution	51,000	-	-	51,000	31,000
Promotional Expenses	1,207	-	-	1,207	-
Cost of Traded Goods	6,780	-	-	6,780	-
Cost of Events	255	-	-	255	-
Newsletter Costs	2,404	-	-	2,404	2,218
Insurances	2,060	-	-	2,060	1,946
Legal & Professional	1,260	-	-	1,260	1,260
Sundry Expenses	334	-	-	334	343
Sub total	78,148	6,070	-	84,218	154,551
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	78,148	6,070	-	84,218	154,551
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,132	- 5,000	-	- 1,868	- 25,815
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	207,726	5,000	-	212,726	238,541
Cash funds this year end	210,858	-	-	210,858	212,726

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	Bank Current Account	22,389	-	-
	Paypal & Cash	231	-	-
	Deposit Accounts	188,238	-	-
	Total cash funds	210,858	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Trading Stock	2,388	-	-
	Debtors	252	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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)
	Freehold Property	Unrestricted	-	750,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accruals	Unrestricted	1,100	<1 year
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Michael John Russell	04/11/2022	
		Clifford Hugh Dean	04/11/2022	



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2021	To	31	03	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 269535

Charity's principal address

School House
Coastguard Lane
Fairlight, East Sussex
Postcode TN35 4AB

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	Mr C H Dean	Chairman		
2	Mr A J L Barnes	Vice Chairman		
3	Mr J Baker	Secretary		
4	Mr M J Russell	Treasurer		
5	Mr J Willsher			
6	Mr P F Bonham			
7	Ms S Morgan			
8	Mrs C Emmitt			
9	Mr P E Jones			
10	Mr J E Trowell			
11	Mrs L M Wren			
12	Mr J Tomlinson		20/09/21 to 31/03/22	
13				
14				

15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

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)

Trust Deed, referred to as a constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Unincorporated association

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

Appointed by existing Board of Trustees, appointments ratified and reappointments confirmed by The Charity's members at the Annual General Meeting

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.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

The objects of The Charity shall be to further the charitable purposes of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, including assisting the management of The Reserve through voluntary work and contributions, fundraising by way of subscription and activities, organising local publicity for The Reserve, recruiting members to support The Reserve, co-operating with relevant local bodies and authorities and taking any other measures considered to be in the interests of The Reserve.

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 activities organised by the Charity and the facilities introduced or improved as a result of financial or other assistance provided by the Charity enhance the public's appreciation and enjoyment of the nature reserve in particular and wildlife and wild places in general.

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, The Charity regularly reviews its objectives and achievements in order to ensure that the guidelines are complied with.

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.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Following the lifting of most Covid-19 related restrictions the new Discovery Centre on the reserve finally opened to the public in May 2021.

In terms of visitor numbers and revenues generated the Centre has exceeded expectations, and has led to an increase in Friends membership to above pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, the Friends have been able to resume trading in branded goods through the Discovery Centre and other local outlets.

The Discovery Centre now provides a home for the Friends' indoor activities, including a new programme of monthly Friends Days, and serves as a base for a programme of outdoor guided walks.

The Friends made a contribution of £31,000 towards the salaries of nature reserve staff in line with previous years, and an additional one-off contribution of £20,000 towards a fill-in post for a member of administrative staff who has moved into an educational role.

Additionally The Friends contributed £12,848 towards various projects around the reserve during the year, including £6,000 towards fencing for the protection of nesting birds.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity will endeavour to maintain reserves for the following purposes and in the following sums:

- (a) As a provision against falling regular income an amount equating to six months' regular outgoings, currently assessed at: £25,000
- (b) As a provision for future unknown and unspecified capital projects around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: £75,000

and in addition to this:

- (c) Any amounts of restricted income currently not expended on its specified purpose.
- (d) In terms of expenditure, the charity will always endeavour to ensure that its regular outgoings are restricted to an amount covered by regular income. Nature Reserve projects will be funded from reserves from time to time as approved by the trustees on a case-by-case basis.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

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)		
Full name(s)	Clifford Hugh Dean	Michael John Russell
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 4 November 2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
For the Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 (which comprise the receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities) 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.

S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
For and on behalf of Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 10 November 2022

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 269535

Accounts



Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve 269535

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01-Apr-20 To 31-Mar-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations & Legacies	95,538	3,694	-	99,232	68,174
Membership Subscriptions	24,774	-	-	24,774	25,693
Trading Receipts	469	-	-	469	18,657
Events	-	-	-	-	991
Rental Income	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Sundry Income	1,457	-	-	1,457	551
Interest Received	1,804	-	-	1,804	4,787
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	125,042	3,694	-	128,736	119,853
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	125,042	3,694	-	128,736	119,853
A3 Payments					
Reserve Projects	11,590	-	-	11,590	4,750
Discovery Centre Project	100,000	6,194	-	106,194	316,974
Warden Salary Contribution	31,000	-	-	31,000	31,000
Warden Accommodation Contribution	-	-	-	-	2,750
Cost of Traded Goods	-	-	-	-	6,474
Cost of Events	-	-	-	-	711
Newsletter Costs	2,218	-	-	2,218	2,414
Insurances	1,946	-	-	1,946	-
Legal & Professional	1,260	-	-	1,260	3,026
Sundry Expenses	343	-	-	343	1,178
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	148,357	6,194	-	154,551	369,277
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	148,357	6,194	-	154,551	369,277
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 23,315	- 2,500	-	- 25,815	- 249,424
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	231,041	7,500	-	238,541	487,965
Cash funds this year end	207,726	5,000	-	212,726	238,541

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	Bank Current Account	19,464	5,000	-
	Paypal & Cash	525	-	-
	Deposit Accounts	187,737	-	-
	Total cash funds	207,726	5,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Trading Stock	4,555	-	-
	Prepayments	327	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Freehold Property	Unrestricted	-	500,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accruals	Unrestricted	1,090	< 1 year
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Michael John Russell	24/01/2022	
		Clifford Hugh Dean	24/01/2022	



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2020	To	31	03	2021

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 269535

Charity's principal address School House, Coastguard Lane
Fairlight
East Sussex
Postcode TN35 4AB

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	Mr C H Dean	Chairman		
2	Mr A J L Barnes	Vice Chairman		
3	Mr J E Trowell	Secretary		
4	Mr M J Russell	Treasurer		
5	Mr J Willsher			
6	Mr P F Bonham			
7	Ms S Morgan			
8	Mrs C Emmitt			
9	Mr P E Jones			
10	Mr J Baker			
11	Mrs L M Wren		20/8/2020 to 31/3/2021	
12				
13				
14				

15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

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 <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Trust Deed, referred to as a constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by existing Board of Trustees, appointments ratified and reappointments confirmed by The Charity's members at the Annual General Meeting

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.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

The objects of The Charity shall be to further the charitable purposes of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, including assisting the management of The Reserve through voluntary work and contributions, fundraising by way of subscription and activities, organising local publicity for The Reserve, recruiting members to support The Reserve, co-operating with relevant local bodies and authorities and taking any other measures considered to be in the interests of The Reserve.

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 activities organised by the Charity and the facilities introduced or improved as a result of financial or other assistance provided by the Charity enhance the public's appreciation and enjoyment of the nature reserve in particular and wildlife and wild places in general.

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, The Charity regularly reviews its objectives and achievements in order to ensure that the guidelines are complied with.

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.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Construction work on the new Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, which began in March 2019, continued throughout the year and the building was essentially complete by the year-end. However ongoing Covid-19 related restrictions prevented its opening to the public until May 2021.

Previously-unforeseen expenditure on a new services trench increased the project cost significantly during the year and in the light of this The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve made a further contribution towards the project of £100,000 during the year.

Whilst the Discovery Centre is a Sussex Wildlife Trust project in the first instance, the Friends have been major donors and remain closely involved in the development and the future operation of the Centre.

The Friends made a contribution of £31,000 towards the salaries of nature reserve staff in line with previous years, and contributed a further £11,590 to fund the replacement of one of the Reserve's vehicles.

Due to Covid-19 lockdown measures and other related restrictions, no visitor facilities were provided on the Reserve during the year. As a result The Friends were in receipt of no income from retail activities during the year. This has however had no material effect on the Charity's income, its cash reserves or its ability to continue to fulfil its objectives.

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

The charity will endeavour to maintain reserves for the following purposes and in the following sums:

- (a) As a provision against falling regular income an amount equating to six months' regular outgoings, currently assessed at: £20,000
- (b) As a provision for future unknown and unspecified capital projects around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: £80,000

and in addition to this:

- (c) Any amounts of restricted income currently not expended on its specified purpose.
- (d) In terms of expenditure, the charity will always endeavour to ensure that its regular outgoings are restricted to an amount covered by regular income. Nature Reserve projects will be funded from reserves from time to time as approved by the trustees on a case-by-case basis.

**Details of any funds materially in
deficit**

None

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)		
Full name(s)	Clifford Hugh Dean	Michael John Russell
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 24 January 2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
For the Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 (which comprise the receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities) 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.

S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
For and on behalf of Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 26 January 2022