

Charity Number 290637

**FLEET POND SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021**

FLEET POND SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

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FLEET POND SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the Trustees and Members of Fleet Pond Society on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2021

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 Independent Examination of the accounts is required, as its gross income was more than £25,000, as per Charity Commission brochure CC31 and the Charities Act 2009.

It is my responsibility to:

- (1) examine the accounts under Part 8, Sections 145 and 152 of the 2009 Act,
- (2) follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission in their brochure CC32
- (3) 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Part 8, Sections 145 and 152 of the 2009 Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2009 Act have 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

Name

NIGEL J WOOD

**Relevant professional qualifications
or body (if any)**

FCA

Address

3 WOODSIDE GARDENS
WOOD LANE
FLEET, GU51 3EZ

FLEET POND SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The principal address of the charity is 40 Fir Tree Way, Fleet, Hampshire GU52 7NB.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following have served on the committee since 1 February 2020 or later date if shown and act as Trustees of the charity and as such, manage the charity on a daily basis :

	Office held	Dates acted if not for the whole year
Jim Storey	Chairman	
John Sutton		
Katharine Higgins	Treasurer	
Frances Bonnington	Secretary	resigned 31/12/20
Jane Pango	Secretary	01/1/21 but not trustee
Colin Gray		
Nick Keeley		
Terry Austin		
Geoff Dee		
Cathy Holden		
Michelle Salter		
David Pottinger		
Mandy Saxby		
Carol Dunford		
Wolfgang Hamann		

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The charity is governed by the constitution adopted on 5 September 1984, as amended subsequently on 26 February 2005 , 23 February 2008 and 20 February 2010.

CONSTITUTION

The charity is an unincorporated society.

CHARITY TRUSTEE SELECTION METHODS

Members of the executive committee are elected from the members of the society. Members wishing to join the committee during the year must be co-opted by the existing committee by a majority vote.

All members of the executive committee are required to stand down before each Annual General Meeting and must be nominated for re-election.

FLEET POND SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The main charitable objects of the charity are to stimulate public interest and appreciation for Fleet Pond and its surroundings, to promote the preservation and maintenance of Fleet Pond and promote its use as a public amenity and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and local nature reserve and to encourage the harmonious and sensitive use of Fleet Pond and its surroundings by all users, commensurate with its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and local nature reserve.

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The work of the Society was severely curtailed by the various Government restrictions on public activities that were put in place this year to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic. When possible the Society has continued the voluntary management activity at Fleet Pond, including habitat management and repair and upgrade of paths and protective fencing. The new team also continued to tackle the scrub growth on the new islands that were created by the dredging a few years back. Care has been taken that maintenance of islands, reedbeds, marshland and heathland does not impede access or obstruct visitors' views. In fact the work has opened up new vistas across the open areas to the Pond, attracting positive responses from the public. The new protective fencing we sponsored along the higher path along the eastern side of Fleet Pond continues to deliver further recovery of bluebells along this section. We continued to look at the state of the aquatic plants in the Pond and recovery continues since the dredging finished a few years ago. Some of our volunteers underwent training for the use of herbicides so we can treat small saplings when we carry out scrub clearance.

Covid 19 restrictions have meant our Sunday monthly tasks have had to be cancelled and so it was not possible for young people to do community work for the Duke of Edinburgh's award or for Venture Scouts to earn conservation badges.

Volunteer support from visiting groups such as Southampton University Conservation Volunteers and also corporate volunteer groups from local businesses has not been possible either.

August proved to be a disastrous month for our fish population when a combination of low water flows, very high temperature, algal bloom and its subsequent crashing caused a major fish kill in the lake. We estimate that tens of thousands of fish from large to small were killed in this incident.

Illustrated talks for groups from neighbouring parishes and community groups for people with special needs have not been possible because of Covid 19 restrictions. Similarly the physical Wildlife Day in June 2020 had to be cancelled. However we organised a virtual event that drew over 700 new visitors to our website that week, a great success for something completely new to us. Prior to the pandemic we attended Hart Voluntary Action's 'Community Day' day in our local library in February. The Society has continued to encourage public awareness by various articles in the local press and on social media and has gained a significant number of new members. We continued a dialogue with Hart Council and the development company on potential impact of the new settlement of 1,500 houses in process of being built on an adjacent disused site.

This year has been quite unusual for the amount of donations we received which totalled roughly £23,000. This has been received as a result of bequests and money in lieu of flowers at funerals of our members and donations from the Co-op and the Virgin Money Foundation. Also a local young lady did a sponsored cycle ride for us. However the biggest source was a bequest of £20,000 from the estate of Patsy Welford. We have agreed with her executors that a new path will be built down a particularly awkward slope to improve accessibility.

FLEET POND SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the charity to ensure at all times that they have sufficient reserves to meet all expected day to day expenditure for a period of twelve months ahead.

APPROVAL

This report of the Executive Committee was approved at the committee meeting held by Zoom on 16 March 2021 and signed on it's behalf by -

Jim Storey (Chairman)

John Sutton (Vice Chairman)

FLEET POND SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total 2019/20
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Memorial Donations (2021 - Pat Welford)	20,000	-	20,000	3,974
Co-op Donations	750	-	750	9,504
Virgin Money Grant	485	-	485	-
Collection Boxes Cash per HMRC	53	-	53	147
Small Cash Donations per HMRC	55	-	55	80
General Donations	800	-	800	991
Subscriptions (incl member donations)	4,892	-	4,892	4,618
Coral Stevens Sponsored Bike Ride	740	-	740	-
Christmas Lights Donations	165	-	165	991
Booklet Sales / Promotional Goods	-	-	-	19
AGM Income	90	-	90	120
Miscellaneous	67	-	67	-
Interest Received	12	-	12	30
HM Revenue & Customs Gift Aid	1,169	-	1,169	757
	29,278	-	29,278	21,232
PAYMENTS				
Chairman's Leaving Party	-	-	-	292
Surveys	-	-	-	1,180
Memorial Picnic Tables	-	-	-	2,090
Tractor	656	-	656	478
Reserve Management	102	-	102	175
Materials & Equipment	1,864	-	1,864	1,120
Workshop Costs	81	-	81	83
Stationery & Postage	156	-	156	352
Newsletter Costs	447	-	447	983
Insurance & TCV Fees	1,204	-	1,204	1,228
Training	690	-	690	764
Website Costs	184	-	184	774
Booklets & Educational Material	-	-	-	237
AGM Costs	20	-	20	13
Hall Hire	68	-	68	80
Miscellaneous	183	-	183	392
	5,655	-	5,655	10,241
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	23,623	-	23,623	10,991
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus brought forward	27,595		27,595	16,603
SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD	51,218	-	51,218	27,595

FLEET POND SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

	2020/21			2019/20
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
BANK BALANCES				
Barclays Accounts	36,167	-	36,167	12,556
Barclays Deposit	15,050	-	15,050	15,039
	<u>51,218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,218</u>	<u>27,595</u>
LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-
NET FUNDS	<u>51,218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,218</u>	<u>27,595</u>
Represented by:				
ACCUMULATED FUNDS (page 5)	<u>51,218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,218</u>	<u>27,595</u>

Signed by the following on behalf of the Executive Committee :

Jim Storey (Chairman)

John Sutton (Vice Chairman)

Date of approval

02/02/21 by email