



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	01	2017	<b>To</b>	31	12	2017

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Hampshire Ornithological Society

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1042309

**Charity's principal address** c/o "Westerly", Hundred Acres Road,  
Wickham,  
Hampshire  
**Postcode** PO17 6HY

### 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	Keith Betton	Chair	From March 2017	
2	Andy Mitchelmore	Treasurer	From March 2017	
3	John Shillitoe	Secretary		
4	Marcus Ward			
5	Andy Broadhurst			
6	Mike Chalmers			
7	Phil Budd			
8	Chris Manning		From September 2017	
9	Simon Boswell			
10	Jonathan Mycock			
11	Caroline French			
12	Daniel Hoare			
13	Simon Curson			
14	Alison Cross		From June 2017	
15	Mike Wall		Until June 2017	
16	Alan Snook	Chair	Until March 2017	
17	Brian Leach	Treasurer	Until March 2017	
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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)	Constitution detailed in the Society Rules document
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	The Society is a Charitable Unincorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election by Society members at 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.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

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

The objects of the Society are, within the County of Hampshire:

- To advance the education of the public in all aspects of ornithology.
- To promote research into ornithology and to publish the useful results of such study.
- To support and encourage the preservation and conservation of wild birds and places of ornithological interest.

**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 main activities of the Hampshire Ornithological Society are:

To promote and record the study of bird life in Hampshire and to publish the results in the annual Bird Report.

To use these results to encourage and support the conservation of wild birds and their habitats within the county.

To foster a wider interest in the recording and preservation of Hampshire bird life by organising a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, by publishing a quarterly magazine and other forms of publicity.

As set out by the Charity Commission in its Guidances on Public Benefit in respect of the public benefit requirement in running a charity and its reporting, in their opinion the Trustees consider that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidances when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidances are relevant.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

In Section D - Achievements and performance, the Chairman gives details of the activities of the Trust during the past year and how they have met the Society's objects.

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

Chairman's Report sent to Members prior to AGM in March 2018

"In my first report to you as Chairman, I am pleased to say that the Society is in good shape and that its trustees have lots of ideas for the future. Indeed, we have spent time discussing the things we'd like to do over the next five years. This process has been aided by the arrival of Andy Broadhurst and Marcus Ward into their respective roles as chairs of the sub-committees. Our work on both membership and bird research has increased. We have lots of new ideas and if we lack anything it is the time to convert all of our ideas into action – but that has to be better than having all action and no ideas!

One great idea was from Caroline French who suggested that HOS do more to help people to learn about birds, whether as a relative newcomer or someone who has watched birds all of their life. The result has been a series of "Birding Basics" workshops to offer training to members and non-members alike (1). The non-members are converted into members by way of a higher charge for the workshops which includes automatic enrolment in HOS. To date three workshops have been organised and all have been sell-out events – and more are planned.

HOS has been active on many other levels too – making representations on planning applications that negatively impact on birds, liaising with Hampshire County Council's staff, and maintaining a strong dialogue with conservation professionals in the RSPB and HIWWT (2).

Three years ago we established a Grants Programme aimed at significant projects that make positive changes for Hampshire's birds or our understanding of their lives. In 2016 we gave £6000 to three projects, and in 2017 we planned to do the same. In fact, the quality of the applications was so high that we decided to increase our funding to £9000 (3). We cannot do this for ever, but it is the belief of your trustees that we need to act now rather than simply watch the money losing value in the bank. We still have funds to use in future years, and we are already thinking of ways to find co-funders who will make our money go further.

For most members, the Hampshire Bird Report is the main thing that they associate with us, and thanks to the hard work of Mike Chalmers and his team of writers and photographers, the quality gets better every year (4). The bird data that we collect from many sources now goes into a new online database called Cobra 2, and I am grateful to John Clark and Alan Cox for making sure that the introduction of this system was successful.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the HOS machine work so smoothly. Running a successful Society is not rocket science, you just need good people – and we are lucky to have plenty. Looking ahead I am keen that we involve more members in our activities – so if you think you can help HOS in any way then please get in touch with me, particularly if you have never helped us before. New blood tends to arrive with new ideas, and new ideas usually result in a better end product. So all ideas are welcome! Thank you for your support.

Keith Betton  
*Chairman, Hampshire Ornithological Society  
 December 2017"*

While not a complete list of all activities undertaken during the year, the items numbered in the report above, eg (1), are in support of our objectives in Section C, as follows.

- (1) In support of objective i
- (2) In support of objective iii
- (3) In support of objectives ii and iii
- (4) In support of objective ii

Other activities documented in the sub-committee reports in the HOS AGM materials, which support our objectives include

- Bird Camp – supporting objectives i, ii and iii
- Kingfisher magazine – partly supporting objective i
- HOS Open Day – partly supporting objectives i, ii and iii
- Hampshire Swifts – supporting objectives i and iii
- Bird Surveys – supporting objectives ii and iii
- Walks programme – supporting objective i
- Bird Trail – supporting objective i
- School and other visits – supporting objective i

## Section E

## Financial review

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

Having recently published a successful book the Society currently has increased reserves, but we aim to use these over the next five years to support conservation and research projects that meet our objectives. Once that has been achieved, the Society's reserves should represent approximately 12 months of running costs.

### 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

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Keith Betton	John Shillitoe Andy Mitchelmore
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Secretary Treasurer
<b>Date</b>		