



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2019		31	12	2019

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		
2	Andy Mitchelmore	Treasurer		
3	John Shillitoe	Secretary		
4	Marcus Ward			
5	Andy Broadhurst		Until July 2020	
6	Mike Chalmers			
7	Andrew Colenutt			
8	Andy Lester			
9	Kay Shillitoe			
10	Tom Jordan			
11	Nicola Whitmarsh		From July 2020	
12	David Brookes			
13	Annette Clayson		From July 2020	
14	Barry Page			
15	Alison Cross		Until July 2020	
16	Nicky Court			
17	Janice Beck		From July 2020	
18	Julianne Evans			

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)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Trustees receiving grants from the Society are regarded as transactions with "related parties" and are required to be reported by SORP 15 FRS 102.</p> <p>In 2020 there were no grants sought by, or made to, any Trustees of the Society.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The objects of the Society are, within the County of Hampshire:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) To advance the education of the public in all aspects of ornithology. ii) To promote research into ornithology and to publish the useful results of such study. iii) To support and encourage the preservation and conservation of wild birds and places of ornithological interest.
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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 of HOS, in his report to members, outlines some of the activities of the Trust during the past year, showing how they have helped meet the Society's objects. Other activities (extracted from the reports of the Chairs of the Scientific and Membership Committees) which are also in support of our objectives, are listed.

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 to be sent to Members prior to AGM in March 2021

"A year ago, nobody could have predicted how life (and birding) would change so dramatically in 2020. Everyone has been affected in so many ways, and of course HOS had to change many plans – the Members Day and outings in particular. A time when we can all meet again safely cannot come soon enough, but in the meantime, we are trying to improve our contact with members via Zoom talks on matters that they say are of interest to them (1). Another victim of the pandemic has been some aspects of our fieldwork, such as our planned survey of Snipe in the New Forest. We aim to complete that work in 2021 – along with several other surveys.

Despite all these distractions, recruitment of HOS members remained remarkably high and it is great that 104 new people joined us in 2020. You are all very welcome. We are also very grateful to the Cameron Bepolka Trust for continuing their support of our Young Member initiative (2) which enables over 30 birders under the age of 21 to benefit from free HOS membership.

Once again, the HOS Grants Programme (3) supported projects that make positive changes for Hampshire's birds, and the Society has also been active in making representations on planning applications (4) that negatively impact birds. We now monitor all new applications alongside our colleagues at HBIC. Not least among these is the proposal to develop the Tipner peninsula in Portsmouth Harbour – an important roosting site for our wintering waders and wildfowl. HOS is standing shoulder to shoulder with the RSPB and HIWWT in putting the case against this unwelcome and totally inappropriate development.

Once again, the Hampshire Bird Report (5) team did a great job and copies of the 2019 report were in the hands of our members in early November, maintaining a well-earned reputation for both speed and quality. We increased the volume of the Kingfisher newsletter (6) but offset this extra cost by reducing our postal bill by distributing three issues instead of four.

Data is so vital in much of what HOS does, and we are adding to our data thanks to a volunteer team who are digitising the mass of paper bird records prior to the 1990s (7). In addition, John Clark has just finished writing a new HOS publication that assesses the status of all rare birds that visited Hampshire between 1950 and 2020 (8). Look out for a pre-publication offer in a few months.

So, it has been a year that none of us will forget. I am also mindful of the fact that some of our members work in the NHS and the other emergency and essential services. This has been a tough year for all of us - but even tougher for you, being in the front line dealing with challenging situations. You may realise how much the rest of us appreciate the personal sacrifices you make on a daily basis, but on behalf of everyone else in HOS I want to record our gratitude.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Society to achieve so much in 2020. I wish you a good (and safe) birding year ahead.

Keith Betton
Chairman, HOS
December 2020

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 (above), as follows.

- (1) In support of objective i
- (2) In support of objective i
- (3) In support of objective iii
- (4) In support of objective iii
- (5) In support of objective ii
- (6) In support of objective I and ii
- (7) In support of objective ii
- (8) In support of objective ii

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

- Liaison with Conservation Organisations – supporting objective iii
- Developing ten-year plan for surveying – supporting objective ii

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society currently has increased reserves and the Trustees aim to deploy these over the next three to four years to support conservation and research projects that meet the Society's objectives. Once that has been achieved, the Society's reserves should represent some 12 months of running costs, which have ranged approximately between £36,000 and £24,000 during the past five years (2016 to 2020 inclusive).

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)	Keith Betton	John Shillitoe Andy Mitchelmore
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary Treasurer
Date		