

# *Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society*



**Founded 1869**

**Registered charity 291604**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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## **CHARITY INFORMATION**

**Founded:** The Society was founded in 1869 and registered as a charity in 1985.

**Charity number:** 291604

**Governing document:** Constitution adopted on 4 March 1983 as amended on 22 March 1985, 16 March, 1999, 21 March 2006, 10 March 2015, 12 March 2019, 10 March 2020 and 23 March 2021.

**How the charity is constituted:** Unincorporated charitable association

**Registered address:** (Honorary Secretary) James Emerson, 108 Sleaford Green, Norwich, NR3 3JT

**Independent Examiner:** Martyn Benstead, Stephenson Smart, Fakenham

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank PLC, St Stephen's Street, 5-7 Red Lion Street, Norwich, NR1 3QH

**Website:** [www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk)

**Email:** [membership@nnns.org.uk](mailto:membership@nnns.org.uk)

**Social media:**

<https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkNats> and <https://twitter.com/NorfolkNats>

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

This report will be published on the Charity Commission's website, where reports from previous years may also be found.

### **Introduction**

The Council of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society has pleasure in presenting this Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Despite restrictions on public meetings due to the pandemic, membership of NNNS has risen steadily throughout the year to 675 members (653 at the end of 2020). Other activities have continued and the Society's research efforts have expanded significantly, whilst the Membership & Events Committee is in the process of recruiting members to develop a more focused educational role.

In 2021 several trustees came to the end of their term in office or have stood down as members of Council and I thank them wholeheartedly for their service; Tony Irwin (Research Committee Chairman), Tim Hodge (Assistant Treasurer), Will Fitch (Council member) and Mary Goddard (Council member). We were delighted that Tony Irwin agreed to continue his association with the Society by becoming a Vice President, which was duly approved by the membership. Sincere thanks are also due to Carl Chapman, who stepped down as Society Chairman after four years in the role at the 2021 AGM, but continues on Council as Chairman of the Liaison Committee.

I remain very grateful for the support and dedication shown by all members of the NNNS Council and, on our members' behalf, thank them.

*Tony Leech (NNNS Chairman) January 2022*

## **Organisation**

The key management personnel of the charity are the Trustees, and the Society has no staff. The Society relies heavily on the voluntary work of the Trustees and many other volunteers, who make a vital contribution to the Society and for which the NNS Council is very grateful.

Trustees are elected by the membership at the AGM either annually (Officers) or for three-year terms (members with no specific office). Trustees are aided on Council by Vice Presidents. These are members who have made major contributions to the study of natural history and have previously given long service on Council. They are elected for life by the membership and give advice, however they are not Trustees and do not vote at meetings.

**Vice Presidents: R.E. Baker, A.L. Bull, R. Hancy, A.G.Irwin** (from 23/03/21),  
**P.W. Lambley, D.I. Richmond.**

The Society President is nominated by Council to serve for one year and is a person who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of natural history.

**President until 23/03/21: Dr Jeff Price      President from 23/03/21: Nick Acheson**

## **Trustee names and responsibilities**

The following individuals have held the position of Trustee during 2021.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Additional role (if any), with dates in brackets if the role changed during 2021</b>	<b>Date served as Trustee (if not whole year)</b>
Tony Leech	Chair (from 23/03/21) Publications Committee Chair	
James Emerson	Secretary	
Francis Farrow	Assistant Secretary	
Jim Froud	Treasurer Finance Committee Chair Membership & Events Secretary	
Tim Hodge	Assistant Treasurer Finance Committee Secretary	Until 23/03/21
Tania Evanns	Assistant Treasurer Finance Committee Secretary	From 23/03/21
Carl Chapman	Chair (until 23/03/21) Liaison Committee Chair	
Tony Irwin	Research Committee Chair	Until 23/03/21
Nicholas Mark Collins	Research Committee Secretary (until 23/03/21) Research Committee Chair (from 23/03/21)	
Danielle Engelbrecht	Membership & Events Chair	
Jo Parmenter	Publications Committee Secretary Liaison Committee Secretary	
Janet Higgins	Research Committee Secretary (from 23/03/21)	
Will Fitch		Until 23/03/21
Mary Goddard		Until 23/03/21
Debbie Ashton		
Tim Kemp		
Trevor Williams		
Alice Liddle		
Sam Neal		From 23/03/21

## **Objectives and public benefit**

The objectives of the Society are:

*“To promote, organise, carry on and encourage education of the public and study and research for the advancement of knowledge in natural sciences and to protect endangered species”*

To furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Society may:

- Publish papers on the natural sciences, especially those relating to Norfolk.
- Encourage the exchange of information between naturalists by means of meetings and excursions.
- Protect endangered species by the collection of information, cooperative surveys, investigations and the dissemination of the useful results of such investigations.
- Do all such other lawful things as shall further the attainment of the above objects.

The Society was approved as a charity by the Charity Commission in 1985 in the category of “Environment/Conservation/Heritage”, and was deemed to benefit the general public as a Society that *“provides advocacy/advice/information/sponsors or undertakes research”*

In carrying out our activities this year the Trustees paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on providing public benefit.

Some of the key activities relating to these areas of public benefit in 2021 were:

- A series of online talks by a range of guest speakers and available free to all
- Public workshops covering aspects of moth and fungi ID
- Release of an occasional publication on plant galls
- The establishing of a research library at Wheatfen in partnership with the Ted Ellis Trust
- Commencement of a three-year research programme at the newly created Broadland Country Park north of Norwich. The information gathered will be used to aid the conservation of individual species, assemblages and habitats, and also to inform a management plan that will benefit the area for both people and wildlife.

## **Achievements and activities**

### **Events**

The only field event to go ahead this year was a joint event in Norwich held in conjunction with the Friends of Earlham Cemetery, although a small group were able to meet at Wheatfen in August to celebrate the opening of the new research library. We were however pleased to be able to put on a variety of online talks via Zoom, covering topics such as the rewilding project at Wild Ken Hill, citizen science, a biodiversity audit of the North Norfolk Coast and Ash dieback disease. Our thanks go to all of the excellent speakers who made these events work, including Carl Chapman, James Brown, Jeff Price, Rob Hawkes, James Gilroy and Daniel Salliss, Dominic Buscall, Sam Neal and Liam Smith,

Jonah Tosney and Tom Russell Grant.

Education of the public about the wildlife of Norfolk is a key aim of the Society and one that you will find running through the activities described here. In addition to the talks, publications, research and outreach carried out in 2021, “fungi for beginners” and “moths for beginners” workshops were well attended, whilst the Society had a stall at the popular Norwich Science Festival during their nature and environment day. Over the summer one of the Trustees also led several sessions introducing primary school children to the invertebrate life of Marston Marshes as part of an event organised by Eaton Vale Residents Association.

We are looking forward to a return to face-to-face events as soon as possible in 2022.

*Secretary – James Emerson*

### **Publications**

The Society’s annual staples, the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report* and *Transactions*, were produced in 2021 although publication of the latter has been delayed to the early part of 2022. The *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report*, slightly larger than usual due to greater use of photographs, is selling well from the usual outlets, with a steadily increasing demand for direct online sales. Nick Owens is stepping down after editing *Transactions* for six years; he has done a splendid job in maintaining the academic standards and interest levels in this publication which, as well as informing members, is placed in local and national libraries.

Early in the year we published, as an Occasional Publication, *Illustrations of Norfolk Plant Galls* by Robert Maidstone, containing nearly 700 exquisite line drawings by the author. *Emma Turner: a life looking at birds* has proved to be popular and we are contemplating a reprint. Publications on Norfolk whales and the Rev. Maurice Bird are in the pipeline.

Four issues of the Society’s quarterly bulletin *The Norfolk Natterjack* have continued to inform members about Norfolk’s wildlife and I am continually grateful to Francis Farrow for his efficient and competent editorship producing such an attractive and interesting publication.

*Publications Chair – Tony Leech*

### **Research**

The Research Committee plans and implements the Society’s research programme. In February, Dr Tony Irwin stepped down as Chair after many years of service and was replaced by Dr Mark Collins. The Committee supports members involved in the Society’s research projects, including the 40 County Recorders and dozen Specialist Groups. It fosters individual or joint investigations, keeps records of work and releases results through the Society’s publications.

In 2021 the Committee closed the four-year project at Buckenham Carrs and the Chair

prepared a full report for publication with inputs from County Recorders and Specialist Groups. Buckenham Carrs is an important element in the Broads Ramsar Wetland Site and the national network of SSSIs. Its nationally scarce vegetation types and ecological assemblages include many rare plants, birds and invertebrates. Based on thousands of hours of voluntary work, the study identified a creditable 1600 species, but this may represent only a quarter of the total yet to be discovered at this important site. Thanks are due to Malcolm and Thomas Savory for allowing us to work at Buckenham Carrs.

The Committee selected the newly designated Broadland Country Park for its next priority and entered into a three-year Memorandum of Agreement with Broadland District Council. Following the establishment of a Working Group to liaise with the Park Management, County Recorders, Special Interest Groups and other experts were invited to begin surveys. A topographic map of the Park's 16 ecological compartments supported detailed studies of invertebrates, vascular and non-vascular plants, and mammals. Scarce species and new records have emerged and a detailed work programme is planned for 2022. The Society is grateful to the Park staff, Sarah Burston and Julia Kennelly, for their support, and to all members of the Research Committee and Working Group for their guidance and advice.

NNNS member David Weaver was awarded the District Council's 2021 *Community at Heart Award* for his dedicated work at the Country Park.

The Committee participated in the ground-breaking *Barcoding the Broads* project in partnership with the Earlham Institute and DNA barcoding research will continue into 2022.

*Research Committee Chair – Nicholas Mark Collins MA PhD*

### **Liaison Committee**

The function of the Liaison Committee is to establish working relationships with other organisations. The operations of a committee that is principally concerned with meeting people was once again curtailed by the pandemic. Meetings where possible were conducted by Zoom and just when we thought things were getting better the Omicron variant took hold. However, with the efforts of a dedicated committee of Alice Liddle, Trevor Williams, Jo Parmenter and Bob Leaney many relationships and opportunities were developed during the course of the year.

The committee sought out and put forward areas and projects for the Research Committee to consider. Factual information was presented on planning issues that protected wildlife within the county and funds were sought out for the development of projects that would revolutionise bat and bird migration monitoring in the county.

Projects in 2022 that will be coming to the fore concern Roadside Nature Rutionise bat and bird migration monitoring in the eserves and more monitoring and research possibilities.

*Liaison Committee Chair - Carl Chapman*

## **Online presence**

The Society's website remains our 'shop window' to the world and is expertly maintained by Jim Froud. Amongst a wide range of content it includes links to our series of species guides and digitised volumes of our older publications – an exceptional amount of information made freely available. It also now features recordings of some of the online talks given by our guest speakers.

Social media has become an important way of connecting with both members and the wider public, allowing help with sighting identifications, sharing members' wildlife sightings and the highlighting of interesting talks and ID resources from other likeminded organisations. The NNNS Twitter account had 916 followers at the end of 2021, whilst the Society Facebook page that functions mainly to promote our events was followed by 775 people. The Norfolk Wildlife Facebook page managed by Andy Musgrove on behalf of the Society now has an impressive 4440 members and is another important way of informing members and other wildlife enthusiasts about the work of the Society. A big thank you to Andy and his fellow Facebook group moderators.

*Secretary – James Emerson*

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Summary**

Full details of the Society's accounts can be found on pages 8 and 9. The total cash balance of the Society on 31st December 2021 was £127,223.

### **Reserves**

Thanks to the receipt of various legacies in recent years, the Society's finances are well above the amount required to cover the annual production costs of *Transactions* and the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report*, so that their publication is independent of the variability in cash flow from subscriptions and sales. Whilst the Society does not currently have a formal reserves policy, one will be proposed and adopted during 2022.

### **Risk Management**

In recent years the Society's main source of income has been via grants and legacies, followed by money from subscriptions. A decrease in membership would lower the amount of money being received, but would also result in savings on printing and postage of publications. The Treasurer, assisted by the Finance Committee, supplies Council with regular updates to allow the Trustees to make informed decisions about planned expenditure.

### **Plans for the Future Period**

The Trustees are currently drawing up spending plans for both the short and medium term to ensure that the Society's money is best used to address our aims. This has already begun with an increase in research spending during 2021 allowing a wide range of initiatives at Broadland Country Park.

# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

*Registered Charity 291604*

**1st January to 31st December 2021**

## RECEIPTS

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Voluntary sources	Subscriptions - (Note 1)	13,818	13,141
	Grants / legacies - (Note 2)	15,951	14,329
	Donations - (Note 3)	7,472	1,505
Trading activities	Bird & Mammal Report sales	2,500	2,593
	Sales of other publications	973	1,524
	Other sales	0	1,232
	Delivery and postage costs - (Note 4)	0	0
	Workshop attendance fees - (Note 5)	30	90
Income from assets	Interest	294	526
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>41,038</b>	<b>34,941</b>

## PAYMENTS

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		Total	Total
Lectures & meetings	Room hire / speakers' expenses	414	448
	Workshops - (Note 5)	0	100
	Programme card printing	0	309
	Exhibitions and publicity	84	0
Publications - (Note 6)	The Transactions	0	7,542
	The Bird & Mammal Report	6,879	6,497
	Sales expenses, fees, postage	596	45
	The Occasional Publications	3,729	7,520
Membership services - (Note 7)	Quarterly Natterjack - (inc. postage & stationery)	2,904	3,604
	Postage to members and reminders	88	286
	Paypal fees and welcoming new members - (Note 8)	168	119
	Website	103	255
Research & education	Research	2,189	349
	Education	135	0
Governance	AGM expenses: print+post	112	402
	Public liability insurance	655	655
	Consumables, envelopes, labels	85	136
	(Note 9) - 2019 Committee for 150 year anniversary	2,591	865
	Publication sales postage	598	0
	Committee printing, stationery & postage	0	144
	Sending accounts for examination	11	0
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>21,342</b>	<b>29,276</b>



# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity 291604

1st January to 31st December 2021

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2021	2020	
<b>Movement in funds</b>	Start of year balance	107,527	101,863
	Receipts	41,038	34,941
	Payments	21,342	29,276
	<b>End of year balance</b>	127,223	107,527
<b>Assets at period end represented by:</b>			
	Cash at Barclays	28,743	13,273
	Paypal account unbanked	166	0
	Teachers Saving A/c	98,314	98,020
	Unbanked cheques	0	0
	Less uncleared cheques	0	-3,766
	<b>End of year balance</b>	127,223	107,527

### Liabilities at period end:

Expenses incurred in 2021 but not claimed before the year ended, will be paid in 2022


### Notes

- 1) At year end we had 675 subscribing members (653 at end of 2020)
- 2) The Legacy of Barbara Ann Fox was nearly £16,000
- 3) Note that in 2018 we discontinued to refer to "the Peet Fund" in accounts, the donations are no longer restricted, but we continue to acknowledge the Sarnia Trust, in our printed publications - they donated £7,000 in 2021 (The remaining £472 is the total of 38 other donations.)
- 4) "Revenue" from PayPal postage was notional and is included in prices
- 5) Few Workshops were held and no expenses claimed this year
- 6) Publications costs are listed with postage and packaging included.
- 7) Natterjack is printed and sent free only to Members.
- 8) 50 new members joined in 2021 (56 in 2020)
- 9) Purchase of books for the Wheatfen library.

J Froud - Treasurer 16/08/2022

## DECLARATION

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: 

Position: Chairman

Full name: Anthony Robert Leech

Date: 23/08/2022

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT

## NORFOLK AND NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 291604

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the summary of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

#### **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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 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.

Martyn Benstead FCCA FMAAT  
Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited  
10 Oak Street, Fakenham  
Norfolk  
NR21 9DY

