

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society



Founded 1869

Registered charity 291604

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

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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, 23 March 2021 and 22 March 2022

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated charitable association

Registered address: Oaklands, Wymondham Road, Wreningham, Norwich, NR16 1AT

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

Email: 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

To an extent, 2022 has been a year of getting back together and I am very pleased to report that most of the threads have now been picked up. It has taken a little while to get a full programme of events arranged and this is still a work in progress.

The number of members continues to increase steadily (up to 693 from 675 at the start of the year) and we are particularly grateful to those who put in much effort to keep our show on the road. Inevitably, however, there has been retirement of some long-standing stalwarts. It is essential that new members come forward to replace these – preferably with stimulating ideas. This has certainly happened with the Research Committee with much effort being put into survey and recording work at the Broadland Country Park. Generous legacies have made it possible for us to have more ambitious aspirations in this area.

A welcome development has been the planning of an education programme within the newly constituted Events and Outreach Committee, further supporting our charitable objectives. We have to move slowly with our limited volunteer base but the framework and intentions are established.

NNNS Chair - Tony Leech

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 NNNS 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, P.W. Lambley (died January 2022), 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 22/03/22: Nick Acheson President from 23/03/22: Dr Pam Taylor

Trustee names and responsibilities

The following individuals have held the position of Trustee during 2022.

Name	Additional role (if any), with dates in brackets if the role changed during 2022	Date served as Trustee (if not whole year)
Tony Leech	Chair Publications Committee Chair	
James Emerson	Secretary (until 22/3/22)	Until 22/3/22
John Hobbs	Secretary (from 22/3/22)	From 22/3/22
Francis Farrow	Assistant Secretary	
Jim Froud	Treasurer Finance Committee Chair Membership & Events Secretary (until 22/3/22)	
Tania Evanns	Assistant Treasurer Finance Committee Secretary	
Carl Chapman	Liaison Committee Chair	
Nicholas Mark Collins	Research Committee Chair	
Danielle Engelbrecht	Membership & Events Chair (until 22/3/22)	Until 22/3/22
Sarah Butler	Events and Outreach Chair (from 22/3/22)	From 22/3/22
Jo Parmenter	Publications Committee Secretary Liaison Committee Secretary	
Janet Higgins	Research Committee Secretary	
Debbie Ashton		
Tim Kemp		Until 22/3/22
Trevor Williams		Until 22/3/22
Alice Liddle		
Sam Neal		
Sue Gale		From 22/3/22
Joe Harkness		From 22/3/22
Tim Strudwick		From 22/3/22

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 2022 were:

- A series of online talks and in person meetings by a range of guest speakers and available free to all
- Public workshops covering aspects of fungi ID
- Continuation 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.
- Improved support for activities that introduce young people to wildlife.

Achievements and activities

Events and Outreach

During 2022, the Membership & Events Committee was further reorganised. Jim Froud continues to have responsibility for membership and reports directly to Council. The ‘new’ Events & Outreach Committee plans the Society’s talks and field meetings and has responsibility for educational activities and social media.

The Events programme got off to a slow start after Covid with first few post-lockdown speaker meetings taking place at Eaton, with gratifyingly good attendance. A full programme is developing well for this year which will be advertised in Natterjack and on the website as a programme card is no longer produced.

In 2022, for the first time, the Society’s educational intentions became incorporated into a committee responsibility. There have been practical reasons why the Society has been reluctant to engage in activities for young people but the co-option of Allan Archer has now made this possible. He has built up a successful programme for young people and their parents in the county and the Society has been able to support this so that it is delivered in connection with NNNS.

The Society's website, maintained by Jim Froud, is our central online presence, containing a large range of information about the Society. Both the NNNS Twitter account and the NNNS Facebook page, each run by James Emerson, have over 1000 followers. The Norfolk Wildlife Facebook group, managed by Andy Musgrove and a small team of volunteers, has over 4900 members making it another important place for members of the public to hear about the Society and benefit from the expertise of its members. All of these media have seen increased use through the year and I am grateful to all involved in running them.

Events and Outreach Chair – Sarah Butler

Publications

Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report: The Reports for 2021 were published at the end of October in the usual format and I am grateful to editors Andy Stoddart (bird report) and Richard Moores (mammal report) for the very considerable work they do collating the records. After ten years, Andy intends to resign once the 2022 bird report is completed and we are looking urgently for a successor to work with him on this. On-line sales have, in recent years, somewhat compensated for a slight fall in sales through third parties.

Transactions: James Emerson has taken over as editor from Nick Owens and has organised the usual informative and interesting material for Transactions 2022. Layout, and hence publication, was delayed until the early months of 2023 due to other commitments.

Natterjack: Editor Francis Farrow has continued to produce this quarterly bulletin filled with diverse and interesting short articles, notes and photographs. We are grateful to all contributors. Printing is now done by Lavenham Press so that posting out (of nearly 700 copies) can be done by the printers. Although this arrangement is significantly more expensive, it does release Council members from a time-consuming task.

Occasional Publications: *Emma Turner: a life looking at birds* (James Parry) continues to sell steadily and a reprint of 100 copies has been obtained. Two further substantial publications are in the final stages of writing and should be published in 2023.

Publications Committee Chair – Tony Leech

Research

The Research Committee plans and implements an annual programme, in line with the NNNS mission and objectives. Dr Mark Collins continued as its Chair, ably supported by Secretary Janet Higgins and a Committee of seven that met in March and October, in addition to regularly supporting the 40 County Recordors and dozen Specialist Groups, fostering individual and joint investigations, keeping records of work and publishing results.

Members of the Society have taken part in training workshops as part of the *Barcoding the Broads* project within the *Darwin Tree of Life* programme. As a result, the fungus group and the freshwater group are routinely preparing DNA samples for study.

A County Recordors' Meeting was held at the John Innes Centre on the theme *Recording Biodiversity Through Partnerships*. Speakers showed how biological recording contributes to international and local policy implementation, management of the Broads National Park and other reserves, agricultural land management and urban development planning. Work at Buckenham Carrs, Broadland Country Park and in genetic barcoding were reviewed.

The final 48-page report on Buckenham Carrs was published in *Transactions* and well-publicised in the local press following a media and stakeholder event at the site in March.

The Society's priority three-year project at Broadland Country Park, in partnership with Broadland District Council, saw the completion of a second year of research, steered by a Working Group that met six times. As part of the programme of work, five 0.5km transects were established, covering most ecosystems. By year's end, nearly 2000 species had been recorded, all assigned to specific habitats. Discoveries have already contributed to park management and the data will be drawn together for final analysis after the project ends in December 2023.

A biodiversity survey was carried out at Deepdale Farm on Norfolk's north coast, where the landowners are establishing a baseline for a regenerative farming programme. With support from the DEFRA *Farming in Protected Landscapes* fund, six monthly surveys were conducted, backed up by a weekend visit by the Society's County Recorders and other enthusiasts.

Research Committee Chair – Dr Mark Collins

Liaison

The Liaison Committee has gone from strength to strength during 2022. With up to eight members of the committee attending meetings we are no longer short of willing hands. My thanks as chairman go to all members of the Committee but special mention must go to Jo Parmenter, the committee's secretary, who has supported me in every endeavour to put the NNNS at the forefront of wildlife monitoring and protection within Norfolk.

During the course of the year, we have cemented old relationships outside the Society and developed new ones. These actions led to a relationship with Deepdale Farms in North Norfolk which was developed further in the safe hands of the Research Committee to form a substantial area of ongoing research. This underlines the good work by many landowners in our county committed to regenerative agriculture; a way of producing food more sympathetic to wildlife. Our strong links with the Norfolk Flora Group have also helped develop relationships through the county

During 2022 we continued monitoring and involving the committee in the developments on the road system around Norwich which is still at the time of writing ongoing. We have also supported the Norfolk Wildlife Trust in commenting on legislation which would harm the environment.

Liaison Committee Chair - Carl Chapman

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Summary

Full details of the Society's accounts can be found on following pages. The total cash balance of the Society on 31st December 2022 was £123,596.

Reserves

No legacies were received in 2022, unlike previous years, but the Society's finances are well above the amount required to cover our planned spending. The Society has agreed a Reserves Policy which stated that we should maintain assets of one year's expenditure. The Finance Committee will review this when annual budgets are set.

Risk Management

The Treasurer monitors all accounts at least weekly.

The Finance Committee met nine times in 2022 to validate spending and for the Assistant Treasurer to prepare reports to the quarterly Council meetings where the Trustees may need to make informed decisions about plans and budgets.

Plans for the Future Period

Budgets agreed by Council ensure spending plans are aligned with the Society's aims and include a Publications Budget, an Education budget, and a revised Research Budget for continuing projects in 2023 and starting new initiatives.

Treasurer – Jim Froud

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity 291604

1st January to 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS		2022	2021
Membership	Subscription	13,584	13,818
Voluntary sources	Legacies and Donations	466	23,423
	Grants	300	0
Trading activities	<i>"Bird & Mammal Report"</i>	2,930	2,500
	Sales of other publications	619	973
	Workshop attendance fees	0	30
Income from assets	Interest	686	294
Total receipts		18,585	41,038

PAYMENTS		2022	2021
Lectures & meetings	Room hire / speakers' expenses	214	414
	Workshops	250	0
	Programme card printing	29	0
	Exhibitions and publicity	17	84
Print & Post Publications	<i>"Transactions"</i>	4,510	0
	<i>"Bird & Mammal Report"</i>	7,235	6,879
	Fees and postage of sales	997	1,194
	<i>"Occasional Publications"</i>	617	3,729
	Quarterly "Natterjack", print and post	4,583	2,904
Membership services	Postage to members and website	689	359
Research	Research projects	989	2,189
	Grants for Research	161	0
Education	Education	487	135
Governance	AGM expenses: print and post	654	112
	Public liability insurance	723	655
	Consumables, envelopes, labels	19	85
	Commemorating 150th Anniversary	0	2,591
	Miscellaneous	40	11
Total payments		22,212	21,342

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity 291604

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES in Calendar Year 2022

Funds and Assets		2022	2021
		£	£
Movement in funds	Start of year balance	127,223	107,527
	Receipts	18,585	41,038
	Payments	22,212	21,342
	Surplus or deficit	-3,627	19,695
End of year balance		123,596	127,223
Assets at period end Represented by:			
	Cash at Barclays	24,412	28,743
	PayPal account	183.36	166
	Teachers Saving A/c	99,000	98,314
End of year balance		123,596	127,223

Liabilities at period end:

Some expected expense incurred in 2022 are still to be claimed or paid, including

- a) "Transactions 2022" which will be published in 2023.
- b) The Research budget has expense claims carried forward.
- c) Similarly some Education budget expenses were delayed.

Notes

- a) Our Reserves Policy requires us to maintain financial assets of about one year's outgoings, currently £22,000
- b) The deficit arose because unlike in 2021, no legacies were received in 2022.
- c) There were no new "Occasional Publications", just a reprint of "Emma Turner"
- d) Room hire costs resumed once Covid restrictions were reduced.

We continue to gratefully acknowledge the Sarnia Trust in our printed publications:
their donations help to maintain high print quality.

J Froud - Treasurer 12/01/2023

DECLARATION

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:



Position: Chairman

Full name: Anthony Robert Leech

Date: 2 March 2023

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 2022 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

