



registered charity no. 1076362

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020/21





ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Statutory Information

Registered Charity Number	1076362
Working Name	YACWAG
Governing Document	Constitution adopted 18 February 1999 with amendments agreed on 28 June 1999 and 23 May 2020.

Executive Committee

Chairperson	A Moulin
Vice Chairperson	R Croucher
Secretary	W Lowman
Treasurer	V French
Committee	R Ashley J Howard S Lovesey R Lowman C Moore F Moulin R Wood (Yatton Parish Council) A Hacking (Congresbury Parish Council)

Landholding Trustees (Nortons) A Moulin, T Riddle

Minute Secretary (non-Trustee) J Hunter

Custodian Trustee The Official Custodian for Charities

Bankers Lloyds TSB plc, Weston-super-Mare branch
Charity Bank, Tonbridge.
Triodos Bank, Bristol.

Independent Examiner Michael Earle, 2 Westaway, High Street, Yatton, BS49 4JA

Solicitors Wards Solicitors, 1-3 Alexandra Road,
Clevedon, BS21 7QF

Website www.yacwag.org.uk

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was registered on 2 July 1999. The group was previously known as Friends of Biddle Street SSSI, which was an informal association with management responsibilities for an area of land in the parishes of Yatton and Congresbury in North Somerset. Membership of the Charity is open to individuals and organisations who are interested in furthering the work of the Charity and who have paid any subscription laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects are to establish and maintain nature reserves in the parishes of Yatton and Congresbury for the benefit of the public and to advance education in natural history and nature conservation.

YACWAG has an active membership with a wide array of relevant skills and expertise in voluntary organisation and nature conservation. YACWAG's public activities were curtailed due to the Covid19 pandemic, in particular dormouse and bat surveys, public walks and public meetings. The AGM was cancelled in accordance with guidance from the Charity Commission. However, meetings of the Trustees continued via Zoom.

Achievements and Performance 2020/2021

Despite the Covid restrictions YACWAG has been able to achieve outcomes in most key areas of its work. A five-year Countryside Stewardship (higher tier) grant was secured from 1 January 2021. Work commenced on a ditch and scrub management plan on the Strawberry Line Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in agreement with Natural England.

A small apple orchard was planted at Kenn Moor reserve through the financial support of the charity's members. An oak tree was also planted at Harry's Plot, Claverham, sponsored to commemorate two lifelong friends who had lived in Claverham. A total of four owl boxes were put up. Two were replacements on YACWAG reserves and two donated by member Barbara Evans were erected on Cadbury Hill LNR. A total of 54 bird boxes were checked on YACWAG reserves, Strawberry Line LNR, Glebelands and St Mary's churchyard, Yatton.

A regular fungus survey was established at Littlewood thanks to the Bristol and North Somerset Fungus Group. Bird surveys were carried out under the supervision of Trevor Riddle on the Strawberry Line, Littlewood and other reserves in connection with the North Somerset Moors and Levels Project. Although curtailed by Covid restrictions, 21 out of 27 planned surveys were carried out. In addition, members were encouraged to report their bird sightings and send photos for circulation to the wider membership via email. This proved very popular throughout the lockdown periods. The Christmas bird survey had a record response from over 100 residents and members.

YACWAG received publicity in the local press and radio through the discovery of the rare Yellow Loosestrife Bee at the Stowey reserve. The discovery of a rare horsefly at the Congresbury Moor reserve three years ago by Colin Higgins received recognition through a paper published in the British Journal of Entomology.

Spring and autumn newsletters were published together with three additional special editions focusing on insects and the flora and fauna of New Croft.

Membership of the Charity has been maintained at approximately 250 and the YACWAG Facebook Group reached a total of just over 400. The website was updated by Mark Stanford to be compatible for mobile phone users.

Although public events were largely abandoned, YACWAG had a presence at the Congresbury "virtual" village fete and Sue Lovesey organised a socially distanced tree dressing event at St Andrew's school based on an idea by Chloe Brown. A programme of online public talks was organised through Zoom which started with a presentation by Nikki Jones of Avon Needs Trees. YACWAG purchased a licence for Zoom which also enabled online discussions between trustees and others. The executive committee met via Zoom on four occasions and its work included a review and update of its policies, financial reporting and banking arrangements and updating its 5 Year rolling plan to develop a resilient approach to Covid and the sustainability of the charity.

Discussion continued with North Somerset Council assisted by Graham Lovesey regarding the transfer of land in Congresbury as part of a section 106 planning agreement to provide mitigation for Greater Horseshoe Bats.

YACWAG has engaged with a number of organisations and groups throughout the year. These have included assisting Cleeve church prepare a draft management plan for its churchyard to achieve an A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award as well as sharing information and experience with Avon Needs Trees regarding Charity management and organisation and setting up surveys at Littlewood with the Bristol and North Somerset Fungus Group. There was liaison with the Meadowview residents' group in Claverham to plant an oak tree on Harry's Plot.

YACWAG was grateful for the support of its membership, volunteers, local contractors and graziers, especially Patrick Vincent of Green Mantle, Andrew and Joe Hunt, Andy Milward, Steve Devine, Colin Higgins, James Brine and Trevor Richard to bring about the work mentioned above and help YACWAG make a real difference for nature.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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 Michael Earle Date 19 April 2021

Michael Earle
2 Westaway
Yatton
BS49 4JA

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total receipts of the charity in the financial year were £10,814 (2019/20 £17,996).

The expenditure amounted to £9,467 (2019/20 £7,062).

Total funds carried forward at the end of the year were £42,471.

The Committee is satisfied that sufficient reserves are held at the present time.

The Executive Committee is required to comply with its obligations under the Charities Act and Charities SORP 2005 with regard to the preparation of financial statements and is satisfied that it has so complied. The Committee acknowledges that it is responsible for the keeping of proper accounting records and for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The above report was approved by the Executive Committee on 24 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

..... A Moulin
A Moulin
Chairperson

The notes on page 8 form an integral part of these accounts.

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

RECEIPTS	Restricted Funds £	Designated/ Unrestricted Funds £	Totals 2020/21 £	Totals 2019/20 £
Subscriptions		1,341	1,341	1,180
Donations (with Subscriptions)		393	393	295
Other donations	1,000	880	1,880	2,436
GiveAsYouLive and Everyclick		50	50	90
Terracycle		0	0	10
Gift Aid		597	597	223
Publications		0	0	63
Clothing		0	0	307
Quiz Proceeds		0	0	454
Rural Payments Agency		4,958	4,958	11,927
Other Grants		587	587	810
Bank Interest		183	183	186
Writing Comp		-15	-15	15
Orchard Sponsors	840	0	840	0
TOTALS	1,840	8,974	10,814	17,996

PAYMENTS	Restricted Funds £	Designated/ Unrestricted Funds £	Totals 2020/21 £	Totals 2019/20 £
Direct Charitable Payments				
Reserves Management		3,892	3,892	2,388
Strawberry Line		268	268	1,997
Bird Projects		690	690	233
Bat Projects		0	0	61
Tree Projects	1,840	934	2,774	0
Education & Training		0	0	17
Drainage Rate		109	109	102
Tools/Equipment		24	24	592
Clothing		0	0	401
Insurance		266	266	266
Events		61	61	532
Other Payments				
Stationery/Supplies		273	273	407
Meetings		144	144	12
Publications		0	0	14
Transaction Fees		26	26	40
Professional Fees		930	930	0
Memberships & Subscriptions		10	10	0
TOTALS	1,840	7,627	9,467	7,062

Monetary Assets	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Totals £ 28.2.2021	Totals £ 28.2.2020
Balances at Bank				
Lloyds Current A/C		1,623	1,623	13,577
Lloyds Savings A/C		5,000	5,000	0
Charity Bank	836	26,666	27,502	27,325
Paypal		258	258	157
Petty Cash		83	83	65
Triodos Social Venture		399	399	0
Triodos Deposit A/C		7,606	7,606	0
TOTALS	836	41,635	42,471	41,124

New Bank Accounts

Three additional accounts have been opened during the year in accordance with YACWAG's Investment Strategy.

Fixed Assets held by the Charity

- 10 Acre field on Congresbury Moor, purchased in 1999 for £24,900 plus costs.
- 2 additional fields (New Croft and Meakers) on Congresbury Moor, purchased in 2000 for £17,725 plus costs.
- Phippens (field) on Congresbury Moor, purchased in November 2001 for £5000 plus costs.
- Littlewood (woodland), Claverham Drove, Kenn Moor, purchased in 2003 for £19,000 plus costs.
- 2 fields off Stowey Road, Yatton, purchased in 2006 for £25,000 plus costs.
- 2 fields off Kenn Moor Road, Yatton, purchased in 2006 for £42,700 plus costs.
- Footmead (field) on Congresbury Moor, purchased in 2007 for £4,000 plus costs.
- Nortons, field on Congresbury Moor, purchased in 2009 for £12,000 plus costs.
- Harry's Plot off Claverham Close, Claverham, bequeathed in 2017.

The freehold title to the above properties, with the exception of Nortons, is held on trust for the Charity by the Official Custodian for Charities.

Contingent Liability

The land off Moor Lane known as Nortons is subject to a legal charge in perpetuity of 58.3% of the sale price in the event of any sale.

YACWAG also holds conservation tools and equipment with an estimated value of £5,431.

.....A Moulin.....
A Moulin Chairperson

.....20 April 2021.....
Date

The notes on page 8 form an integral part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Receipts and Payments Basis

Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 allows a charity to prepare a 'receipts and payments account' for the year and a 'statement of assets and liabilities' at the year-end instead of preparing full accounts for a particular financial year on condition that in the financial year the charity's gross recorded income was £250,000 or less and it is not a company.

As this charity's income for the financial year was less than £250,000 the Committee has decided to prepare accounts on this basis.

2 Restricted and Committed Funds

	Balance £ 28.2.20	Funds £ Received	Funds £ Expended	Balance £ 28.2.2021
Bristol Airport grant*	500	0	0	500
Middlecombe Nursery (bats)	336	0	0	336
Memorial tree at Harry's Plot	0	1,000	1,000	0
Kenn Moor orchard	0	840	840	0
TOTAL	836	1,840	1,840	836

*Bristol Airport grant allocated for site interpretation at Strawberry Line Junction Reserve at Yatton station. Project has been delayed due to Covid19.

3 Independent Examiner's Fee

The Independent Examiner has agreed to carry out this service for no charge.

4 Employees

The Charity has no employees and has therefore not incurred staff costs during the period.

5 Transactions with Trustees

No member of the Committee received any remuneration during the period. The only payments to members of the Committee were in respect of reimbursement of expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity.