

YATTON AND CONGRESBURY WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

Registered Charity:	Number 1076362
Working Name	YACWAG
Governing Document	Constitution adopted 18 February 1999, with amendments agreed on 28 June 1999 and 23 May 2018
Chairperson	A Moulin
Vice-Chairperson	R Croucher
Secretary	W Lowman
Treasurer	V French
Committee	J Howard A Hacking (Congresbury Parish Council) C Hammond (elected 23 May 2018, resigned 23 September 2018) C Higgins S Lovesey R Lowman F Moulin R Wood (Yatton Parish Council) J Hunter (Minute Secretary)
Custodian Trustees	The Official Custodian for Charities
Bankers	Lloyds TSB plc, Weston-super-Mare Branch
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.

The Charity is administered by an Executive Committee. Yatton Parish Council and Congresbury Parish Council each have the right to nominate one member of the Executive Committee. The AGM, at its meeting on 23 May 2018, agreed to amend the Constitution to remove the right for the Cheddar Valley Railway Walk Society (now the Strawberry Line Society) to nominate a member to the Executive Committee. It was also agreed at that meeting to create the office of Vice Chairperson, to be elected together with the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer from the membership at the AGM. Additionally up to four members may be co-opted by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may exercise powers in furtherance of the objects, including power to raise funds and to invite contributions, power to buy, sell, lease, exchange and equip property, power to employ staff, power to co-operate with other bodies of similar purpose and power to establish and support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions for all or any of the objects. They have power to appoint and constitute appropriate advisory committees, but do not have the power to undertake any substantial permanent trading activities.

The Executive Committee has a policy with regard to the recruitment, induction and training of Committee members. This policy endeavours to ensure that individuals with an interest in the works of the Charity, with appropriate skills or expertise, are recruited, appointed and subsequently adequately versed in the affairs of the Charity and the responsibilities of Charity trusteeship.

The Executive Committee annually reviews the major risks facing the Charity. It is satisfied that appropriate systems are in operation to mitigate those risks. Specifically, as part of this process, the Executive Committee has considered that the changes to the financial reporting using an easily accessible computerised accounts system and online payment system since 2017/18 have proven very effective. A considerable amount of time and effort was spent on amending administrative systems to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018. The Executive Committee carries out regular reviews of its policy framework. Policies relating to land acquisition, reducing environmental impact and safeguarding were updated.

It was agreed that YACWAG should actively seek to build contingency funds to assist with land purchase and also towards land management due to the uncertainty regarding the future of agri-environmental grants. A decision was also taken to invest financial reserves in an interest-earning account with the Charity Bank. Strategic management has been assisted by the adoption of a rolling five-year plan 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. In addition to fundraising, members organise practical work parties, walks, talks, school visits, events, species surveys and training. YACWAG provides advice and support to landowners, individuals and voluntary organisations. New educational activities and scientific research are encouraged. Since its inception YACWAG has created four nature reserves through land purchase (on Biddle Street SSSI, Kenn Moor SSSI and Stowey fields.) Members are responsible for land management and liaison with relevant agencies to achieve biodiversity objectives and targets.

YACWAG works with a wide network of agencies and voluntary organisations involved with nature conservation in North Somerset. It is represented on the Strawberry Line management committee and continues to develop strong links with Natural England in the management of its nature reserves on two Sites of Special Scientific Interest. YACWAG works closely with the Hawk and Owl Trust and is an active member of the North Somerset Nature Net. YACWAG is also affiliated to TCV, the national conservation organisation for voluntary groups. Many of YACWAG's active volunteers are also associated with other local voluntary projects, for example, the Friends of Yatton Station Garden.

Achievements and Performance 2018/2019

YACWAG's financial position remains healthy with a small surplus for the second year running. This has been achieved despite another significant delay in the receipt of agri-environmental payments beyond the end of the annual accounting year. However, unlike the previous two years when conservation work had to be postponed, the weather did not prevent the planned conservation programme. Ditching and scrub removal was carried out on the Congresbury Moor Reserve and the Strawberry Line. Part-funding for this work came through a grant from the Avon Wildlife Trust. The rather inclement weather did, however, probably account for the poor breeding of barn owls for a successive year with only one brood of two chicks being recorded.

YACWAG volunteers participated in over 30 work parties amounting to over 600 hours of practical conservation work on YACWAG reserves and public open spaces including the Strawberry Line Local Nature Reserve. Regular activities included checking bird and bat boxes and associated maintenance and surveys. YACWAG is particularly grateful to Alan Walker for masterminding the construction and erection of two replacement barn owl boxes on Congresbury Moor with the assistance of Andrew and Joe Hunt. A day of hedge-laying was organised on Congresbury Moor for Costain employees under the expert eye of Malcolm Dowling as part of the company's engagement with the community programme.

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A programme of six walks enabled the public and members to discover wildflowers at the Stowey Reserve, bats on Cadbury Hill and birds of the Strawberry Line and Kingston Seymour. A talk on dormice drew an audience of 40 people who learnt about the discovery of dormice locally and the regular surveys carried out by YACWAG volunteers thanks to the leadership of Sarah Dale.

YACWAG maintains a close relationship with Saint Andrew's school, Congresbury. Volunteers took part in an assembly to promote the Big Bird Watch, carried out a bird box check in the school grounds and put up an insect house. A YACWAG stall was run at a memorial event for the late headteacher, Neil Tuttiet. Participants were able to make up insect house kits for the memorial garden at the school and also one to use in their own gardens. They also learnt about the importance of insect pollination.

A YACWAG " Hungry Caterpillar " stall was run at the Yatton Schools' summer carnival and provided an introduction to the magical world of butterflies and moths under the banner *Nature as your Neighbour*. This slogan has been adopted for all YACWAG events and promotional material when reaching out to the wider community about the importance of nature conservation and the charity's work in the two parishes. YACWAG has an experienced and enthusiastic bat group carrying out regular surveys in the two parishes and surrounding areas. Some members of this group attended two Batlinks meetings organised by Natural England in order to develop and coordinate bat data mapping in the Mendip region to guide planning and development mitigation. The group undertook its regular annual surveys for the Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Monitoring Programme in Claverham and Congresbury. Group members also assisted residents in Cleeve with the collection and analysis of horseshoe bat records which are required to make informed planning objections.

Two quizzes were held at the Plough Inn, Congresbury, which raised £345. The traditional Tree Dressing was carried out in Yatton and Congresbury in December using 'eco-bricks' to discourage single-use plastic. The eco-bricks and some other hanging environmental slogans were made by different youth groups from the two villages. YACWAG received national publicity in January 2019 when the Chairperson was interviewed about the charity's work on the BBC Radio 4 Open Country programme.

An extraordinary amount of additional work was carried out by our Secretary and other committee members to ensure that the charity was compliant with the revised data protection requirements (GDPR) introduced in May 2018.

YACWAG is grateful to all its members, volunteers, sponsors and supporting organisations in helping it achieve so much in the past year. Special thanks are due to Andy Millward and Steve Devine for providing cattle grazing on our reserves. Our thanks also go to Andrew Hunt, Green Mantle and Trevor Richards for assisting with our conservation works and land management. We are also grateful for the continued support of Chris Sperring, Hawk and Owl Trust, with barn owl monitoring.

Tony Moulin
Chairperson
February 2019

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total receipts of the Charity in the financial year were £10,174 (2017/18 £12,406).

The expenditure amounted to £8,074 (2017/18 £8,481).

Total funds carried forward at the end of the year were £30,190.

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 3 April 2019 and signed on its behalf by :

A J Moulin
Chairperson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 28 February 2019, which are set out on pages 7, 8 and 9.

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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- 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 have not been met:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; 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 _____ Date _____

Michael Earle
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	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£	£	
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions		595	595	117
Donations - Paid with Subscriptions		253	253	35
Other Donations & Events		1460	1460	114
Give As You Live & Everyclick Donations		308	308	5
TerracycleDonations		22	22	
Gift Aid		622	622	37
Publications				4
Clothing		6	6	8
Quiz Proceeds		345	345	
HLS Scheme		5975	5975	298
Bristol Airport Grant	500		500	
Co-op Community Fund 2017				243
St Andrew's School Walk 2017				174
HarryHailes'Bequest				200
Bank Interest		88	88	
TOTAL INCOME	500	9674	10174	1240
PAYMENTS				
Direct Charitable Payments				
YACWAG Reserves Management		3452	3452	114
Strawberry LineWork		2727	2727	187
St Mary's Churchyard Work				6
Bird Projects		718	718	18
Bat Projects		69	69	209
Insect Projects				6
SmallMammalProjects		65	65	
Education & Training		80	80	
Annual Drainage Rate		101	101	9
Tools & Equipment		33	33	12
Clothing				7
Insurance		266	266	27
Events		213	213	21
Official Custodian Set-up Fee				175
Other Payments				
Stationery & Supplies		242	242	36
Meetings		14	14	5
Publications		89	89	
Paypal Transaction Fees		5	5	1
Professional Fees				4
Memberships & Subscriptions				3
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0	8074	8074	841

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	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	2018/19	2017/18
Net Receipts (Payments) for year	500	1600	2100	392
Balance at 28 February 2018	0	28090	28090	2416
Bank Balances at 28 February 2019	500	29690	30190	2809

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 28 February 2019

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2018/19 £	Total 2017/18 £
Monetary Assets				
Balances at Bank				
Lloyds TSB Treasurers Account		6929	6929	27762
Charity Bank	500	22638	23138	0
PayPal		65	65	288
Petty Cash		57	57	40
Other Monetary Assets			0	0
Total Monetary Assets	500	29690	30190	28090

Fixed Assets held by the Charity

Ten 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.
Further field (Phippens) on Congresbury Moor, purchased in November 2001 for £5000 plus costs.
Woodland at Littlewood, 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.
Land at Kenn Moor, 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, 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. However the validity of this legal charge is being re-examined due to the winding up of Yanley and North Somerset Environmental Company.

The Charity also holds conservation tools and equipment with an estimated value of £7,320.

(Signed A J Moulin)

A J Moulin Chairperson

The notes on page 10 form an integral part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

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 have decided to prepare accounts on this basis.

2 Restricted and Committed Funds

	Balance 28.2.18	Funds Received	Funds Expended	Balance 28.2.19
	£	£	£	£
Junction Reserve (Gateway) Project	0	500	0	500
	0	500	0	500

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.