

Registered Charity Number: 1040740

THE SWANNERY TRUST

ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2021

THE SWANNERY TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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THE SWANNERY TRUST

CHARITY INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Trustees | The Hon Mrs Townshend DL J R Townshend M K Scrace |
| Registered Charity Number | 1040740 |
| Working name | The Fleet and Swannery Trust |
| Principal address | The Estate Office Melbury Sampford Dorchester Dorset DT2 0LF |
| Solicitors | Charles Russell Speechlys LLP 5 Fleet Place London EC4M 7RD |
| Bankers | National Westminster Bank Plc 2 Hendford Yeovil Somerset BA20 1TN |
| Independent Examiner | H Mazrae Saffery Champness LLP Midland House 2 Poole Road Bournemouth Dorset BH2 5QY |

THE SWANNERY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees submit this report, together with the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The Swannery Trust is constituted by Deed of Trust dated 5 August 1994 and is a registered charity, number 1040740. The principal address is at The Estate Office, Melbury Sampford, Dorchester. The Charity's Trustees are listed on page 1.

Objectives and activities

The main objects of the Trust are the promotion, preservation and protection of swans and other such species of birds that are rare or threatened, together with the conservation of Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon. This is achieved through the work of the Ilchester Estates' staff at Abbotsbury Swannery and the Chesil and Fleet Nature Reserve.

The main ongoing and specific achievements of the Trust in this report period are summarised in the table below. Contributions by Swannery staff, warden team and volunteers are described as S, W and V respectively.

| SUBJECT | ACTIVITY | BY |
|---|--|-------|
| Birds | Collection of breeding data in resident flock | S |
| | Collection of data on Fleet's flock of moulting swans | S |
| | Swan Study Group and other training | S V |
| | Swan rescue | S V W |
| | Chesil Bank Little Tern Project - partner | W V |
| | Collection of data on breeding colony of Common Terns at Abbotsbury | S V W |
| Habitat maintenance | Willow beds | S W V |
| | Reed beds | S W V |
| Other bird species | Passerine and duck ringing | S V |
| | Surveys and data collection: wetland bird surveys, breeding bird surveys | S W V |
| The Chesil and Fleet's environment | Fleet Edge Study | W |
| | Monitoring of Fleet Shoreline, Fleet Lagoon and Chesil Bank activities | W V |
| | Manage Reserve's Access Permit system | W |
| | Weather station and temperature logger maintenance and data collection | W |
| | Litter collection | S W V |
| | Management of eyesores and washed up boats | W V |
| | Visitor management | S W V |
| | Management of boats/dinghies | W |
| | Management of permit system | W |
| Hut owner guidelines and safety information | W | |
| Public awareness | Operate and maintain reserve website and ongoing blog | W |
| | Design and install interpretation and signage along Reserve | W |
| | Reserve and Swannery newsletters | W V S |
| | Events: various | S W |
| | Walks: various | S W V |
| | Chesil Beach Centre operation - partner | W V |
| | Chesil multi-media project – live cameras, weather recording etc | W V |

The Trust is mainly funded by grants and donations.

THE SWANNERY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained within the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives. We seek to ensure the range of activities of the Trust ensures that we meet our obligations in respect of the public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The year from April 2020 to March 2021 saw the Trust continuing its aims and objectives. The Warden's Annual Report and the Reserve's website blog during the year and other published material contain details. A summary of the year's activities is as follows: -

- The colony of Mute swans at Abbotsbury had a productive year, both in terms of nest numbers, cygnets hatching and the total reared to the end of the season. The absence of visitors throughout March, April and May did not have an effect on the swans or their productivity. The first egg arrived on the 26th March, there were a total of 106 nests and the first cygnets hatched on 11th May. In total, 165 cygnets were ringed throughout the autumn, ready for the winter ahead. Unfortunately, the success of a good breeding year was short lived. In October the H5N8 strain of avian influenza, that had been circulating throughout Europe was identified within the UK, brought over by migrating wild birds. At the beginning of November, H5N8 was confirmed in a Canada goose found on the Reserve. As a result of the virus, swan losses throughout November were fairly substantial with a handful of other waterfowl species succumbing also. Incident and safety management procedures were implemented immediately.

The weather was kind to the other breeding birds this spring and summer, being fairly mild to very warm. The Common Tern colony at Abbotsbury consisted of 55+ nesting pairs, which hatched 90 chicks. Unfortunately, we were unable to ring them due to staff social distancing restrictions. The Little Tern colony at Ferrybridge had a bumpy start to the season. It started off well with a good number of pairs laying but, many of the first clutches of eggs were predated by a hungry hedgehog. After relays the colony had made 80 nest attempts and managed to fledge an estimated 20-30 chicks. The Cormorants that nested for the first time on the Reserve last year, successfully nested again in 2020. This aquatic bird made use of the old Tern platform located within the Swannery embayment. This year, five pairs nested, fledging an average of two chicks per pair. Other nesting birds on the Reserve, which include Oystercatchers, Ringed Plover, Shelduck, Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers, among others, have had a productive year. One final breeding bird of note, on the Reserve, is the Barn Owl. A second Barn Owl nest site was discovered this year, the adults successfully reared two chicks to fledging. A continued effort to survey the breeding species within the reedbeds and collating vital data on the populations utilising this habitat is ongoing.

- The FSG hold three meetings a year including additional field days. During 2020 the Covid19 outbreak prevented any of these activities from taking place. When the restrictions were eased some activities were carried out but only by individuals rather than in groups. Chairman of the FSG, Ed Harland was able to carry out a limited number of deployments of the acoustic equipment in the Lower Fleet as well as carrying out a major re-vamp of the Chesil Beach website (www.chesilbeach.org), which was outdated. When able, other members of the FSG took to other areas of the Reserve looking at historical structures, the thriving growth of flora due to reduced footfall, shingle movement, land slippage, Fleet temperatures and more.

The weather station mentioned in last year's report has now completed a full year of data recording and continues to offer live and historic weather data for the area. The solar powered weather station records weather data every 10 minutes and wind data every 10 seconds. The last 14 days of weather data is accessible publicly and can be viewed anywhere in the world. From this data, Reserve staff can produce useful visualisations of the data collected.

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ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- There were two storms of note in 2020, one in February and the second in December 2020. The latter of which produced 60+ mph winds (recorded by the CBFNR weather station) and 9 metre waves, as recorded by the Channel Coastal Observatory's wave rider buoy, located off of Chesil in Lyme Bay opposite Wyke Regis. During this storm, large quantities of shingle were pulled down into the sea and then thrown back onto the beach. In some locations, shingle was thrown onto the inner flank of the beach where it has smothered vegetation and increased the size of the existing cans. The topography of the beach on the seaward side continually shifts and moves. It is unknown just how much these frequent winter storms and high winds impact on the integrity of the beach. There are areas where the crest of the beach is notably undulated as a result of these storms.
- Research projects of the 2020/2021 period included, continued surveying of the health and distribution of the seagrasses within the Fleet via systematic drone photographs, small fish surveys undertaken by the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA), temperature, conductivity and pressure logger data collection, bat migration survey and two research project undertaken by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) investigating 1) micro-plastic Vibro attachment and 2) natural bio-toxins within water bodies and trialling a resin that can absorb and detect low levels of bio-toxins.
- The DWT continue to successfully operate the Chesil Beach Centre. Due to the restrictions this year, there has been a dramatic decrease in visitor numbers within the centre itself. However, between lockdowns, there were high numbers of people visiting the beach. Unfortunately, the Fleet Explorer (under the ownership and management of the Dorset Wildlife Trust) was unable to operate this year as visitors could not socially distance on the boat. The boat saw a financial loss but is hoped it can operate again in 2021.
- The reserve's website, which is now in its fifth year, is still a very useful management tool and a place to send enquiries and/or requests for information. The blog continues to highlight the interesting findings and projects on the Reserve throughout the year.

With regards to incident management; the usual volume of disturbance incidents occurred this year, which included a range of different water users such as kayaks, dinghies and paddle boarders, as well as issues relating to untethered boats, cyclists and dog walkers, plus many more. These incidents remain an ongoing problem along the length of the reserve, particularly in the mid and east Fleet. Reserve staff strive to tackle these issues with interpretation and wardening when possible. One main disturbance issue along the Reserve is that of members of the public accessing and walking the shorelines of the Fleet, especially with dogs. This activity displaces birds that utilise shorelines and shallow waters and forces them to waste energy to avert the perceived danger, as well as contributing to compaction of the sediments, which is potentially damaging to marine life. The main issue with this access is that each occurrence is not perceived as having an impact on the Reserve by the individuals concerned and so, goes unnoticed. However, when repeated numerous times a day at the same location, the fauna and flora that utilise the site will be unwilling or physically unable to reside there. The risk is that these areas will one day be completely void of wildlife as a result, which has unfortunately already been seen at areas along the Fleet. It is hoped that with new and updated interpretation, the frequency of this disturbance can be reduced and the impact lessened.

- Reserve management incorporates a broad range of tasks, projects and development, and throughout the year Reserve staff continued in their efforts to efficiently manage the many aspects of the Reserve. This was hindered somewhat this year due to Covid restrictions, working from home when possible and the constraint of not coming into contact with people. Once restrictions eased, practical elements to the management of the Reserve could resume, including; litter management, boundary management, habitat protection, access incidents, H&S incidents and disturbance issues.

THE SWANNERY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The results of the charity's activities are summarised on page 8. During the year the charity received grants and donations of £31,759 (2020: £29,981) and incurred costs relating to charitable activities of £34,776 (2020: £34,961).

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is managed by the Trustees, who meet regularly to discuss the Trust's activity and ongoing strategy.

The Trustees have power to appoint new Trustees, who are selected on the basis of their relevant skills.

Investment policy

The Trustees have power to make investments as they see fit. The strategy for investments is one of low risk and as such the majority of assets are held in liquid funds.

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider the level of the Trust's reserves to be sufficient to meet its charitable objectives. In doing so, they recognise the importance of donations received. The Trustees have absolute discretion when making grants and as such the reserves can be maintained at a level to safeguard the future of the Trust.

Risk Management

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and taken action to mitigate such risks.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

THE SWANNERY TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have prepared them from the books and records of the Trust.



The Hon Mrs Townshend DL
(for the Trustees)

25 January 2022

THE SWANNERY TRUST

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Swannery Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

Basis of 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 you as 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

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Hannah Mazrae

Saffery Champness LLP

25 January 2022

Chartered Accountants

Midland House
2 Poole Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH14 9EA

THE SWANNERY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

| | Notes | 2021 Restricted funds £ | 2021 Unrestricted funds £ | 2021 Total £ | 2020 Total £ |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies: | | | | | |
| Donations | | - | 30,759 | 30,759 | 28,281 |
| Grants receivable | | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,700 |
| Other trading activities: | | | | | |
| Interest receivable | | 20 | - | 20 | 81 |
| Miscellaneous income | | - | 785 | 785 | 812 |
| Total income | | 20 | 32,544 | 32,564 | 30,875 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Costs of raising funds: | | | | | |
| Fleet Observer expenses | | - | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Expenditure on Charitable activities: | | | | | |
| Employment costs | 2 | - | (24,404) | (24,404) | (24,315) |
| Conservation projects | | - | (134) | (134) | - |
| Support costs | | (99) | (9,139) | (9,238) | (9,646) |
| Total expenditure | | (99) | (34,677) | (34,776) | (34,961) |
| Net expenditure | | (79) | (2,133) | (2,212) | (4,086) |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2020 | | 33,610 | 18,504 | 52,114 | 56,200 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2021 | | 33,531 | 16,371 | 49,902 | 52,114 |

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

All activities are classed as continuing. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included.


THE SWANNERY TRUST

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| | Notes | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | 3 | | 10,468 | | 12,306 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | | 5,266 | | 5,983 | |
| Cash at bank | | 36,977 | | 35,259 | |
| | | <u>42,243</u> | | <u>41,242</u> | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors due within one year | | (2,809) | | (1,434) | |
| | | <u>39,434</u> | | <u>39,808</u> | |
| Net current assets | | | 39,434 | | 39,808 |
| Net assets | 4 | | <u>49,902</u> | | <u>52,114</u> |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | | 16,371 | | 18,504 |
| Restricted funds | | | 33,531 | | 33,610 |
| | 5 | | <u>49,902</u> | | <u>52,114</u> |

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 25 January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



The Hon Mrs Townsend DL

THE SWANNERY TRUST

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective from 1 January 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The Swannery Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Preparation of a cash flow statement

The charity has taken the exemption provided in Update Bulletin 1 updating Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) allowing small charities not to prepare a cash flow statement.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period when the Trust becomes fully entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the Trust has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period. Gifts in kind are not recognised as incoming resources.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis.

Support costs represent expenditure incurred in the general running of the charity; these costs are fully attributable to charitable activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, to write off their cost over estimated useful lives at the following rates:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Plant and equipment: | - between 10% and 33% per annum on a reducing balance basis |
| Motor vehicles: | - 25% per annum on a reducing balance basis |

Fund accounting

Funds that may be held by the Trust are either:-

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used by the Charity in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for a particular restricted purpose within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds have been raised for particular restricted purposes.

THE SWANNERY TRUST**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****2 Staff costs**

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries | 22,601 | 21,784 |
| Pension costs | 1,194 | 1,103 |
| Other costs | 609 | 1,428 |
| | <u>24,404</u> | <u>24,315</u> |

No Trustee received any remuneration from the Trust (2020: £nil).

The Trust has two employees (2020: 2).

3 Fixed assets

| | Land | Plant and equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost or valuation | | | | |
| At 1 April 2020 | 4,117 | 9,200 | 11,975 | 25,292 |
| Additions | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2021 | <u>4,117</u> | <u>9,200</u> | <u>11,975</u> | <u>25,292</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 April 2020 | - | 6,280 | 6,706 | 12,986 |
| Charge for the year | - | 662 | 1,176 | 1,838 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2021 | <u>-</u> | <u>6,942</u> | <u>7,882</u> | <u>14,824</u> |
| Net book values | | | | |
| At 31 March 2021 | <u>4,117</u> | <u>2,258</u> | <u>4,093</u> | <u>10,468</u> |
| At 31 March 2020 | <u>4,117</u> | <u>2,920</u> | <u>5,269</u> | <u>12,306</u> |

In November 1998 the Trust received by way of gift, an area of land known as Mixen Plantation, situated on the bank of the Fleet at the mouth of Rodden Hive. The value of the gift was estimated to be £3,500. The legal costs incurred were £617. The Mixen Plantation value is not included in the above figures.

THE SWANNERY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

4 Allocation of Trust net assets

The net assets are held for the various funds as follows:

| | Fixed assets | Net current assets | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | 10,025 | 6,346 | 16,371 |
| Restricted funds | 443 | 33,088 | 33,531 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 10,468 | 39,434 | 49,902 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

5 Funds

| | 1 April 2020 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | 31 March 2021 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | 18,504 | 32,544 | (34,677) | 16,371 |
| Restricted funds | 33,610 | 20 | (99) | 33,531 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 52,114 | 32,564 | (34,776) | 49,902 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The restricted fund is to be used for the protection of the swans at Abbotsbury Swannery.