Report of Council 2025

The BNHS, its specialised section the Bedfordshire Bird Club and its affiliated groups, had a busy year in 2025, which included talks and field meetings; further surveying of species in the county; publication of annual reports; and continued involvement with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Council matters

As in 2024, the BNHS held some meetings of Council, Scientific Committee and Finance Committee in person, with other meetings held by Zoom.

At the AGM in March, Terence Ilott was elected as Chair for his second year, and it was with shock and great sadness that we heard he had died suddenly in May 2025. Terence made a significant contribution to and impact on the Society in reviewing policies and practices, long overdue, and was a valued member of Council. During the remainder of the year the Chair was agreed for each Council meeting. Several officers stood down at the AGM. Helen Muir-Howie completed her three-year term as Secretary, Scientific Committee and we thank her for leading on scientific activities; the post is not yet filled. Kathy Blackmore completed her three-year term as Chair of Bedfordshire Bird Club, having led the Bird Club to build its membership, almost catch up on publishing Bird Reports and to redevelop the website in partnership with WordPress; the post remains unfilled but Kathy continues on Council as a link with the Bird Club. Sheila Brooke stood down after many years and we thank her for her support in the running of the Society. We are also still seeking volunteers to help with the organisation of outdoor events and to take over the roles of editors of both *Wild about Beds* and *Bedfordshire Naturalist*.

Council agenda continue to cover the general operations of the Society, our policies, financial matters, grant awards, events, projects and publications. The Charity Commission expects trustees to regularly review and assess the risks faced by their charity and plan for the management of those risks and, under Terence's guidance, the Society developed a Risk Register, to be reviewed annually. Council completed its work updating the Society rules, to ensure they were in line with current practice of the Society or of charity operation more generally. The new Rules were approved at the SGM in March and were posted on the website. We again thank our Secretaries, Ann de Winter and Sue Raven, for their excellent management of Council business and for their wider role in matters such as liaison with the Charity Commission.

The financial position of the BNHS remained broadly stable across the year with non-Project income (£17.4K) higher than expenditure (11.07K), although the cost of producing the 2024 *Bedfordshire Naturalist* and *Bedfordshire Bird Report*, vols 79, will have to be taken to expense during 2026. Our cash position, which includes the result of Project activity, is artificially high reflecting the arrangement to hold income from sales of *The Birds of Bedfordshire* prior to distribution to The Greensand Trust and the Wildlife Trust BCN; the production costs of the book were generously paid directly by the Peter Smith Charitable

Trust for Nature and all the sales income will go to the two nominated charities for the nature reserves at Clophill Lakes and Strawberry Hill. The BNHS remains asset rich with cash and investments of around £136K (excluding the Project income). In 2025, Council prepared a policy on prioritising the use of funds, and that will guide the distribution of any free reserves which could be used for BNHS projects or donations in line with the Objects of the Society.

We urge members who are taxpayers to sign up for Gift Aid if you have not already done so; you can sign up when renewing your membership. This provides a significant source of income to the BNHS. Easyfundraising also provides a small but important income stream at no cost to the user; members are encouraged to sign up for this simple web-based facility that provides donations to charities when purchases are made online.

Membership	BNHS		Bird Club		Joint	
Ordinary Member	57	(64)	76	(79)	182	(173)
Ordinary Household	27	(37)	18	(14)	94	(79)
Student (over 18)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Student (under 18)	1	(1)	0	(0)	4	(1)
Life	1	(1)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Honorary Life	1	(1)	0	(0)	6	(7)
Corporate	1	(1)	0	(0)	3	(3)
Total Members	**88**	**(105)**	**94**	**(93)**	**289**	**(263)**

Figures in brackets show 2024 membership numbers

BNHS total membership (including joint members with Bird Club): 377 (368)
Bird Club total membership (including joint members with BNHS): 383 (356)
Total membership of BNHS and Bird Club: 471 (461)
The annual membership data were downloaded on 30th December 2024 and 29th December 2025
Membership numbers have increased by ten in 2025, with a swing toward a greater number of joint memberships.

Science, recording and partnerships

The Scientific Committee met four times, twice by Zoom and twice in person at the Working Woodlands Centre, Maulden. Our 22 County Recorders carry out a key aim of the Society in recording Bedfordshire wildlife, and we welcomed Stephen Hobbs as our new Meteorology Recorder in early 2025. We thank all the Recorders for their efforts during the year, building up our knowledge of the county's wildlife, co-ordinating recording among the wider membership and ensuring that records are passed on to the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC).

The Committee received updates from the BRMC at each meeting and was also kept informed of progress on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. It also oversees progress on various BNHS publications and receives updates from the affiliated groups. No grant

applications were received during the past year. The Committee has representatives on the County Wildlife Sites panel and the BRMC Steering Group.

The Theed Pearse Award of £500 was made to the Wildlife Trust BCN in support of the Rare Species Guardians project; this award is given to an organisation to recognise their work in a particular project that supports the aims of the BNHS.

Talks and walks

Talks were held via Zoom and at indoor meetings at Maulden Village Hall, with subject matter including Wilder Hedgerows for Nature and History (Professor Ian Rotherham); The Great Fen Project (Henry Stanier of the Wildlife Trust BCN); Travels to see distant relatives: Primates from Lemurs to Gorillas" (Dr Wilf Powell); My life as a zoo vet (Dr Edmund Flach); Wildlife of the Chilterns (Jon Mason); and the regular December Christmas members' meeting. The Annual General Meeting, and a Special General Meeting, was held in Maulden in March and included reports from Recorders.

Venues for field meetings included walks and guided tours at: Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital; Queen's Wood, Ampthill; Maulden Wood; Woodwalton Fen; Turvey old railway line; Kensworth Quarry NR; Sandy Smith NR Clophill; Strawberry Hill Farm; Brogborough Landfill Site; Wrest Park, Silsoe; Clophill Lakes; Sundon Chalk Quarry; and Woburn Park.

We again thank everyone involved with running these events, including Mike Bird for organisation of talks, Mike Robinson for managing the Zoom meetings and sending out information about events, field trip leaders for sharing their knowledge and leading the walks. However, there is still an urgent need for one or several volunteers to organise walks and other outdoor events.

Publicity and outreach

Council continued to promote BNHS at outside events during the year and our thanks go to Julia Powell for managing the booking of events and the nature table. We also extend thanks to the team of members who helped with the events this year, some for the first time. At Upper Stondon Flower day on 7th June, five volunteers managed the free-standing photo display boards and the nature table, with the stand attracting a lot of interest. The Higgins Museum 'Green Week' event on 14th June was a success, with the quiz matching adult and juvenile forms very popular. We were invited to the Country Days Family Fun Day at Felmersham for the first time on 31st August, after they had seen our stand at The Higgins in June, and the displays proved popular, keeping our members busy; this is an educational charity for 6-8 year-olds. Ampthill Green Fair, held on 28th September at Park Lodge, Ampthill Great Park, is a well-supported event locally attracting people that showed a keen interest in the activities of the BNHS and several copies of *Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife* were sold.

Mike Robinson is continuing to keep the website up to date. The Society received correspondence regarding a potential violation of copyright in respect of an image on the website, which Council investigated. As a precaution, some of the older material on the website has been removed, where we can no longer verify the source of some of the images shown.

During the year, Council started to consider possible changes to the website, taking account of the new Bird Club website developed in partnership with WordPress. It is hoped that work can start in 2026, with the help of Recorders and the wider membership.

On social media, the BNHS Wild About Beds Facebook Group, administered by John Pitts, further increased to 555 members and the group is reasonably active with a good range of subject material/posting and responses. The Society Instagram account, maintained by Andrew Green, had 232 followers at the end of 2025. We thank John and Andrew for managing these groups on behalf of the Society.

Publications and newsletters

Volume 79 of the Society's annual journal, *Bedfordshire Naturalist*, for 2024 was published in December. As always, Council is grateful to all the contributors and the editorial teams whose efforts deliver such an impressive journal. Rosemary Brind again organised editing and proofreading with the support of Chris Boon, Steph Kimsey, Julia Powell and Wilf Powell. Volume 78, the *Bedfordshire Bird Report* for 2023 was published in July following a concerted effort by the Bird Club to get back on track with support from a larger editorial team.

Four issues of the BNHS newsletter, *Wild About Beds*, were produced and Council extends its thanks to all the contributors. Our Editor, Nick Hammond, stepped down after the January 2026 edition having edited the newsletter for the last four years. The newsletter is an important aspect of our offer to members and we thank Nick for all his work.

Two BNHS publications that are out of print have now been made available as digital copies on the BNHS website. The *Flora of Bedfordshire* (2011), by Chris Boon and Alan Outen, was made available as a digital download by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland for a small charge of £5. *Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire* (2015) by Richard Revels, Chris Boon and Graham Bellamy is available as a free of charge digital version on the publications page of our website.

Two publications are currently in the pipeline. Good progress is being made by the orchid group with regards to preparing a 10-year update on orchid distribution following the publication of *Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire* in 2015 and we thank Richard and Geraldine Hogg for leading on that project. We are also pleased that plans are moving forward on publication of a book on the hoverflies of the county, led by our Recorder, John O'Sullivan.

The standout publication of the year has been *The Birds of Bedfordshire* by Tony Ploszajski. Produced by Bedfordshire Bird Club and published by the BNHS in November 2025, it covers the 307 species that have occurred in Bedfordshire with a detailed review of the last 33 years, featuring photographs, numerous graphs, distribution maps, breeding information, tables, personal accounts and analyses.

Bedfordshire Bird Club

Bedfordshire Bird Club, which is a Section of the BNHS, had a busy and successful 2025. We held a successful programme of Walks and Talks, launched our new website, published the 2023 Bird Report and published a new avifauna, *The Birds of Bedfordshire*, written by Tony Ploszajski with support from other members of the Club. Many thanks are due to members of the committee and all members who have continued to support all aspects of the Club's activities.

Events – Walks and Talks

The Bird Club's Talks programme for 2025 included seven meetings, four delivered by Zoom and three face-to face meetings at Maulden Village Hall, enabling us to include speakers from further afield as well as local experts. The programme started with an excellent presentation on The Marsh Tit & The Willow Tit by Dr Richard Broughton which highlighted the identification of these two declining species. Then in November our speaker, Dr Stanislas Wroza, joined us from France via Zoom and delivered a fascinating talk on identifying migrating birds through sound recording. As always Richard Bashford entertained us with a video review of the year in December which was accompanied by festive food with over 60 members in attendance. Thanks to Mike Bird who has continued to deliver a varied and interesting programme of Talks for us to enjoy.

The Club held 13 well-attended Walks, primarily to Bedfordshire birding sites, attended by an average of 18 members. Each of the Walks had its own highlights but the spectacle of a huge flock of finches at Totternhoe, views of Turtle Doves at Marston and Firecrests in Ampthill Park provided memorable moments for many of us. We held two joint meetings with BNHS Members in June and August with visits to Sandy Smith Nature Reserve and Clophill Lakes. Our final event of the year was our 24th Christmas Bird Hunt, which beat last year's total, and we are grateful to Andy Banthorpe for continuing this much enjoyed tradition. Thanks to all the members who led walks and to Kathy Blackmore for organising the walks and providing refreshments.

Communications

The new Website was launched in the early part of the year and has been well received by members. The key part of the site is the maps and descriptions of 110 birding sites which provide easily accessed information to support the birding of members but also the wider birding community in the county. Many thanks to WordPress for their expertise and

enthusiasm, and to Tom Jackson who has been the main liaison with WordPress as well as leader of our team. Thanks also to Peter Blackmore for his work on birding sites and to Richard North who has taken over as photographic editor on the website. Phase 2 of the website development is now up and running with the main objective to create a members' area. Tom Jackson has stepped back from the website development team, due to pressure of work, but Lisa King and Mike Robinson have joined the team, and we look forward to launching the members' area in 2026.

The email group and WhatsApp groups, administered by Bird Club members for the wider birding community, continue to be very well used and are a rich source of information on birding in the county. This includes specialised WhatsApp groups for Nocturnal Migration and Visual Migration which continue to be popular.

Publications

The Birds of Bedfordshire was launched at an event at Clophill Lakes on Saturday 4th October. The book is a mighty tome and is lavishly illustrated with graphs, maps and beautiful photographs all taken in Bedfordshire. The production of the book has been funded by The Peter Smith Charitable Trust for Nature and the proceeds of sales (minus card transaction fees) will be shared between Clophill Lakes and Strawberry Hill Reserves, two of the newest and most exciting additions to birding sites in the county. A review by Josh Jones of BirdGuides says:

"What a fantastic piece of work this is! If you wanted to sell Bedfordshire to a sceptical birder potentially moving to the region, all you'd need to do is put a copy of his book in front of them. It's presented beautifully, decorated with superb photos – many of which have not been published online – and absolutely packed with information."

Our thanks to Tony Ploszajski who wrote the book, to our President, Peter Smith for funding production, to Steve Blain who curated the photographs, to Peter Nash and other members of Bird Club who gave their time to check information and ensure the high quality of this publication.

The final edition of our quarterly journal, *The Hobby*, was published in the summer as Andy Grimsey retired as editor and we have not found a replacement. We are very grateful to Andy for his dedication and work over many years and I know that many members will be very much missing *The Hobby*. However, we intend to publish monthly sighting lists on the members' area of the website in due course, the Garden Bird survey results will be distributed to members by email as well as being available on the website and any articles which might have been in *The Hobby* will be published in a blog also in the members' area.

The *Bedfordshire Bird Report 2023* was published in the spring and work is well underway on the 2024 Report which we hope will come out in the spring of 2026 with the 2025 Report being published at the end of the year and distributed with the *Bedfordshire Naturalist*. This has been a great effort, and many thanks are due to Barry Nightingale who continues in the editorial role writing the Annual Review and editing the Species Accounts. Data analysis

continued to be managed by the joint efforts of Andy Grimsey and Peter Nash. We also benefitted hugely from the efforts of Terence and Diane Ilott who have worked with Rosemary Brind to manage the copy editing and production process. Thanks also of course to all the species account writers and our Photographic Editor Richard North, a real team effort. We were shocked and saddened to hear that Terence Ilott died suddenly in the early summer so we are particularly indebted to Diane for her continued commitment to providing her skills in copyediting for the 2024 Report.

Surveys and Recording

Members continued to participate in BTO's national surveys as well as our own surveys, on garden birds. Members have also undertaken surveys for the Biodiversity Improvement Programme at Southill Estate and this will continue in the future, with Alan Garner undertaking regular ringing activities on the estate, both of which provide a fascinating insight into the species on site. Increasing numbers of members are using BirdTrack for their records which means that their data is contributing to statistics compiled by BTO and making it easier to analyse the data for the Bird Report. Thanks to Peter Nash, our Bird Recorder, for coordinating all our survey work and supporting reporting and recording of all the birds in the county.

Affiliated and special interest groups

For the *Bedfordshire Mammal Group*, the year began with the conclusion of the fourth national harvest mouse survey (from Oct 2024 to end of March 2025). During this period, as well as individuals surveying for nests, we also organised three group surveys. The first was at Rectory Wood (Marston Thrift) on the 18th January (8 people attended), the second at Felmersham Gravel Pits (9 people attended) and the third at Queens Wood, Ampthill on the 3rd March (11 people attended). In all three surveys nests were found.

Surveys for harvest mice, water voles & water shrews were carried out at the Southill Estate, all of which proved negative.

The spring and summer were mainly dedicated to searching for dormice. At Maulden Wood, the boxes were checked every month from May to October. Sadly this year was a bad one for our dormice and though they were found every month, numbers were very low. We also checked boxes at Pegsdon Hills and Southill Estate without any success. One bright bit of news, however, was that two of our group who have checked boxes at Studham for many years, did find one dormouse, the first since 2018. We are hoping to find more sites with dormice and to that end have installed some dormouse tubes outside Whipsnade Zoo.

Sadly this year we had to cancel our annual small mammal trapping event at Duck End NR.

Finally, for the last three months of this year our primary activity is the fifth national harvest mouse survey which will finish at the end of March 2026. From October until the end of December this year we have only organised two group surveys, one at Queens Wood in

November (9 people attended) and one in December at Strawberry Hill Farm (14 people attended). Both surveys were successful.

The *Bedfordshire Bat Group* held 76 events and surveys during 2025, attended by numerous Bat Group members, some experienced and some new to the group. These included surveys of hibernating bats in underground sites, regular surveys of bat activity at some important sites, surveys of bat boxes, canoe surveys, bat detector surveys of a range of sites and some trapping surveys, including two held jointly with the Wildlife Trust. Extended static bat detector surveys were carried out at eleven locations in spring and summer for the Southill Estate's Biodiversity Improvement Project. Particularly popular were the events which allowed participants to have close views of bats: bat box surveys and some rather successful trapping surveys at Old Warden and other sites.

During 2025, the *Flora Group and Flora Guardians* were amalgamated as the Beds Botany Group, affiliated to BNHS. Communication via email / WhatsApp is now organised by the Wildlife Trust (BCN) and is much more efficient; spring and autumn newsletters were produced and distributed. Field meetings were made to Kempston Wood, Maulden Wood, Wixams, Woburn Safari Park, Dunstable Downs and Sundon Quarry. The Rare Plant Guardian scheme is flourishing with new Guardians recruited at the pre-season meeting and 66 species being recorded. Around 3,500 records were received, mostly by electronic recording which eases transfer of records onto databases.

Publication of the BSBI national Red Data List 2025 has prompted reappraisal of species requiring monitoring and an updated county Rare Plant Register has been produced.

As an affiliated group to the BNHS, *Bedfordshire Geology Group* BGG) works across the county to enhance and promote the knowledge of the rocks and landscape of Bedfordshire. Over the past year we have completed our condition monitoring of the 15 Local Geological Sites. These include sites across the geological spectrum of Bedfordshire. From Jurassic-aged limestone in buildings such as Bromham Bridge; to the Jurassic clays on which the new Universal Studios is being built; to the wonderful, varied landscape and area of Greensand Country incorporating the Greensand Ridge; to the high points and valleys of the Chalk downland around the Chilterns.

Over the past year we have held various events for members, to which we include the BNHS members should they ever wish to come along. We have had talks by Dr Peter Sheldon and guided walks and visits to various sites.

On the education front we have held workshops at The Higgins Museum in Bedford for young people and families as well as holding a monthly Geology Drop-In session on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. From the drop-in sessions we have some finds, but most have been out of county with the county ones being the usual Gryphaea, ammonite and belemnite fossils being brought in.

Monthly meetings continue to be held. These are advertised on our website and through our newsletter and email correspondence to members

As well as people mentioned in this annual report, Council extends its thanks to all BNHS members for their involvement in supporting the Society during 2025.

Condolences

Council wishes to express its condolences to families and friends of members whose passing was reported during the year: Terence Ilott, Ian Kelly and Alan Outen.

BEDFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 268659

Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31st December 2025

	2024	2025
OPENING BALANCE (Currect a/c & Business a/c)	**20,633.11**	**21,551.54**
Cash in transit	**979.04**	**707.54**
	21,612.15	**22,259.08**
INCOME		
Subscriptions, Gift Aid & Donations made at Membership renewal	14,404.43	12,482.85
Grants & general purpose donations	765.30	1,354.35
Sales - see Note 1	396.00	492.73
Investment Income (interest on Business a/c)	113.46	96.93
Investment Income (M & G Charifund Income Fund)	2,680.08	2,814.09
Projects - see Note 2	613.50	11,182.85
Total Income	**18,972.77**	**28,423.80**
EXPENDITURE		
General Administration - see Note 3	528.04	1,228.56
Speakers, Hall Hire & Visits	1,109.34	1,113.14
Periodicals (Wild About Beds, Hobby, BN & Bird Report) - see Note 4	15,219.86	8,227.89
Projects - see Note 5	1,468.60	621.76
Grants - see Note 6	0.00	500.00
Total Expenditure	**18,325.84**	**11,691.35**
CLOSING BALANCE (Current a/c & Business a/c)	**22,259.08**	**38,991.53**

Presented by C Le Boutillier (Hon Treasurer)

Signed ..... **Date** 14/5/26

Independently Examined in accordance with Charity Commission regulations by Paul Giles FCCA (Ret)

Signed ..... **Date** 14/5/26

Independent Examiner's Statement

In conection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and
   to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.

P.A. Giles FCCA (Ret)

Notes:

1. BNHS publications excluding 'Habitats' & 'Avifauna'.

2. Sales of 'Habitats' £721.95. Sales of 'Avifauna' £10,460.90. Proceeds from the sale of the 'Avifauna' will be distributed in accordance with the wishes of the Peter Smith trust, who met the production costs, to other Charities in 2026.

3. Insurance, Paypal & Stripe fees, Bank charges, Information Technology, postage.

4. Distribution of Bird Report 77 & Beds Naturalist 78. Printing & distribution of Bird Report 78.

5. Costs associated with Projects begun in or prior to 2025

6. From 2025 Grants are distinguished from Project Costs. £500 Grant in memory of Theed Pearse made to BCN Wildlife Trust for help with the Rare Species Guardians programme.

BNHS Society Funds at 31 December 2025

	2024 £	2025 £
Current Assets		
HSBC Current Account - see Note 1	15,617	32,133
HSBC Business Account	5,935	6,032
PayPal Account	83	163
Stripe Account	624	664
	22,259	**38,992**
Investments		
M & G Charifund Accumulation - see Note 2	53,028	66,069
M & G Charifund Income	43,846	51,444
Total Funds	**119,133**	**156,505**

Note 1 - The 2025 figure includes £10461 income from sale of 'The Birds of Bedfordshire' before deduction of Paypal fees and p&p costs, temporarily in the charge of the Society for onward transmission to the Greensand Trust and BCN Wildlife Trust.

Note 2 - Although intended primarily for expenditure on major projects the Society's Charifund holding was split to deliver some annual income. In 2025 the income was £2,814.

Restricted Funds (£)

Source	Date received	Purpose	Amount	Spend details	Spent	Balance
Peter Smith Trust held over to 2026	2021	Hoverfly Book	2000			2000
Avifauna sales	2025	Support for Clophill Lakes and Strawberry Hill	10460.9	Paypal fees	158.63	
				P & P	359.76	
For distribution in 2026						9942.51
Donation in memory of Scott Stalham	July 2023	Bird Club	360			
	March 2024			Dusty Gedge Black Restart Lecture	100	
	September 2024			Ed Drewitt Urban Peregrines Zoom talk	125	
Available for Bird Club use in 2026						135
Total restricted Funds						**12,077.51**
Unrestricted Funds						**144,427.49**
Total Funds						**156,505.00**

BNHS Council have recommended that our Financial Reserves policy is featured on this document. The policy has been reviewed annually and it states:

At the meeting on the 7 September 2020, Council resolved:

- *that reserves of around £45,000 should be maintained in longer term investments to provide a regular source of income alongside members' subscriptions.*

that reserves equivalent to two years' expenditure, say, at present, £30,000, should be maintained in case of an unexpected downturn in the Society's income.

- *that reserves of £15,000 should be maintained to enable the Society to fund the publication of at least one book at a time,*

the funds to be replenished from the sale proceeds.

- *that reserves of £3,000 should be maintained towards the provision of small grants.*

Reviewed September, 2025, when it was decided that £30,000 could be made available to support major projects during 2026

Routine Income and Expenditure excluding Projects	**2024**	**2025**
Routine Income	18,359.27	17,240.95
Routine Expenditure	16,857.24	11,069.59
Routine surplus/(deficit)	1,502.03	6,171.36

Routine Income and Expenditure excluding Projects and Income from Investments	**2024**	**2025**
Routine Income	15,565.73	14,329.93
Routine Expenditure	16,857.24	11,069.59
Routine surplus/(deficit)	(1,291.51)	3,260.34

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	March 2024			Dusty Gedge Black Restart Lecture	100	
	September 2024			Ed Drewitt Urban Peregrines Zoom talk	125	
Available for Bird Club use in 2026						135
Total restricted Funds						**12,077.51**
Unrestricted Funds						**144,427.49**
Total Funds						**156,505.00**

BNHS Council have recommended that our Financial Reserves policy is featured on this document. The policy has been reviewed annually and it states:

At the meeting on the 7 September 2020, Council resolved:

- *that reserves of around £45,000 should be maintained in longer term investments to provide a regular source of income alongside members' subscriptions.*

that reserves equivalent to two years' expenditure, say, at present, £30,000, should be maintained in case of an unexpected downturn in the Society's income.

- *that reserves of £15,000 should be maintained to enable the Society to fund the publication of at least one book at a time,*

the funds to be replenished from the sale proceeds.

- *that reserves of £3,000 should be maintained towards the provision of small grants.*

Reviewed September, 2025, when it was decided that £30,000 could be made available to support major projects during 2026

Routine Income and Expenditure excluding Projects	**2024**	**2025**
Routine Income	18,359.27	17,240.95
Routine Expenditure	16,857.24	11,069.59
Routine surplus/(deficit)	1,502.03	6,171.36

Routine Income and Expenditure excluding Projects and Income from Investments	**2024**	**2025**
Routine Income	15,565.73	14,329.93
Routine Expenditure	16,857.24	11,069.59
Routine surplus/(deficit)	(1,291.51)	3,260.34