



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1	January	2017	To	31	December	2017

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Wiltshire Ornithological Society

Other names charity is known by WOS

Registered charity number (if any) 271033

Charity's principal address

1 Rother Close	
Swindon	
Wiltshire	
Postcode	SN25 3PZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Paul Castle	Chair (until April 5 th , Deputy Chair from April 5 th)		
2	Matt Prior	Chair (After April 5 th)		
3	David Little	Secretary		
4	John Sealy	Treasurer	Until 5 April	
5	Rob Turner	Bird Recorder	Until 5 April	
6	Martin Cook	Treasurer	From 5 April	
7	Granville Pictor	Outdoor Meetings		
8	Alison Rymell	Indoor Meetings		
9	Graham Deacon	Sightings		
10	Peter Cranswick	Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas		
11	Christine Johnson	WOS News Editor	Until 5 April	
12	Andrew Bray			
13	Gareth Hawkes	IT Web Manager	From 6 April	
14	Frank Mogford	Membership Secretary		
14	Nick Adams	Bird Recorder	From 5 April	
15	Jenny Elvin	WOS news	From 5 April	
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Society consisting of circa 460 members.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The officers of the Society are elected at the AGM – Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Up to a further 10 paid up Executive Committee members may be elected at the AGM.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>The Society is managed by an Executive Committee. The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting is seven elected members at least one of whom shall be the Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. The Committee meets quarterly, with a formal record taken of each meeting. The Society also has a membership secretary, but this is not necessarily a recognised Committee post. Funds are set up by the committee, budgets set and a lead Committee member allocated to represent each Fund at Committee level, albeit the actual Fund 'project manager' may not necessarily be a committee member.</p> <p>In order to maintain links with other related organisations such as BTO, RSPB and Wetland & Wildfowl Trust and local conservation officers, representatives of those organisations are invited to attend meetings of the Executive Committee where they may speak, but not vote, on any matters brought before the Committee.</p> <p>The Society pays an annual subscription fee to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p>
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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Society are:

- a. To encourage and pursue the study, recording and conservation of the birds of Wiltshire;
- b. To publish the more significant of its recorded findings;
- c. To co-operate with similar bodies, both local and national, in the foregoing objects.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In planning our activities during the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit at our Committee meetings.

The committee uses a spreadsheet to evaluate potential projects against various criteria. The focus of our conservation activities during the year continued to be on Tree Sparrow and Raptor Monitoring.

We produced and published for the public benefit ‘Hobby: The Wiltshire Bird Report for 2015’, which was distributed to members and made available to the public for purchase. Work on production of the new Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas was completed and it was published online during the year.

We continue to organise and lead outdoor meetings, visiting new and/or varied habitats (not just in Wiltshire) to encourage and broaden knowledge understanding of species and habitat. Our indoor meetings are focused around guests speaking on a range of various ornithological/nature/wildlife subjects.

We welcome members from across the country (not just limited to Wiltshire) adults and junior, who are encouraged to bring guests to our Indoor and Outdoor meetings to further awareness of our conservation activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All the activities undertaken during 2017 have been on a voluntary basis. Without voluntary support, the Society would not have been able to meet its objects. The Executive Committee is therefore extremely grateful for the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of members to bring the Society to life for the good of Wiltshire birds.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2017 the Society has undertaken the following activities:

- a. Monitored and protected Raptor nesting sites;
- b. Tree Sparrow - purchased bird rings, food and built nest boxes
- c. Completed production and publication online of the Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas results.
- d. Donated funds to projects external to WOS
- e. WOS members continued to participate in BTO surveys across Wiltshire;
- f. Produced Hobby – the 'Wiltshire Bird Report' for 2015;
- g. Produced 4 quarterly editions of WOS News;
- h. Arranged and held 6 indoor meetings with speakers at those meetings and the AGM covering a variety of related topics.
- i. Arranged and held regular outdoor daily birding meetings principally at locations in Wiltshire and surrounding counties, but also with a number of longer trips further afield, targeting both novice and experienced birders..

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society doesn't have a detailed reserves but it does operate on a Funds basis. Funds are deposited in a bank, building society or National Savings account and may not be invested in any other manner. No borrowing is permitted, except with the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee. Funds are classified as General, Designated or Restricted.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of funding are: Membership fees, HMRC Gift Aid Tax refunds, grants and donations (in 2017 from the Samuel William Farmer Trust, RSPB, Latton Parish Council and Waitrose), the provision of bird data records held by the Society to Land Owners/companies who require information on species population and abundance for which a service is charged, other minor donations, the sale of clothing, artwork, Birds of Wiltshire, Hobby and bank interest.

This year, as in previous years, the significant amount of expenditure has gone on the production and postage of Hobby and WOS News, Raptor monitoring and Tree Sparrow conservation. Donations were also made to other conservation projects - Tree Sparrow South Wiltshire and Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital

Any surplus funds which are not likely to be needed to pay for activities are placed on deposit to earn interest.

Section F Other optional information

Future Plans

The Society will continue to take advantage of Landfill Communities Funding for biodiversity projects and other Grant sources of income focusing on Raptor Monitoring, Tree Sparrow conservation and the Water Eaton Reed Bed project. We will publish Hobby 2016 and consider a paper based (reduced) version of the recent online Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas (phase 2).

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	M Prior	
Full name(s)	Matthew Prior	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date 18 April 2018