

The River Wey Trust

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered No. 1177871

Mallards, Rectory Lane, Bramshott, Liphook GU30 7QZ Tel. 01428 722163



Annual report 2018 – 2019 submitted to the Charity Commission

(Compiled from Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting 13 November 2019 and expanding explanatory notes)

The Trust has continued in its primary role of preserving the course of the South River Wey and its tributaries, and conserving and maintaining the riparian archaeology: it has persisted in its secondary role of conservation by helping clear invasive alien species from its banks and monitoring the water quality. In all its activities it works in close collaboration with relevant authorities. Especial attention is paid to the educational aspects of the Trust, members of which attend local gatherings to teach river ecology and demonstrate water flow with the aid of an innovative sandbox. Finances are raised by subscriptions from both individuals and local organisations, grants from various local authorities in the vicinity of the river, and an annual riverside party.

The Treasurer has highlighted that the approved Accounts (submitted concurrently) took account of the 'old charity' (number 288831) which had been transferred to the current CIO. The sums held are high, but are held in anticipation of planned expensive projects which had been postponed for reasons outside the trust's control: accordingly, no grants had been requested from external organisations for capital expenditure in the financial year.

The Executive Report (detailed in full at Appendix 1) confirms that the Trust continues with its proactive intervention of preserving and retaining riparian archaeology; clearance of invasive alien species and potentially dangerous trees, and monitoring the river's water quality. Additionally, its educational aspirations continue with guided walks, attendance at local gatherings and the widespread demonstrations of river flow with a Trustee's interactive sandbox: a widely-read newsletter is circulated and a guidebook is being updated to allow its widespread distribution on the Web. The Trust maintains close contact with relevant national and local authorities to ensure optimisation of its core strategies to preserve the character, flow and water quality of the South River Wey and its tributaries.

Appendix 1 to River Wey Trust Annual Report 2018-2019

Executive Report

LAND AT RADFORD BRIDGE

GreenConstruct's planning application was lodged in March 2019, with (in draft) a legally binding [s.106] agreement to transfer the land to RWT when and if planning permission for 9 houses were granted.

The application was fairly swiftly refused (their original case officer had temporarily left EHDC)

The ultimate reason for the application's failure was Historic England's objection regarding the impact on setting of the Scheduled Radford Aqueduct.

There was virtually no comment, by anyone consulted, about the benefits of the 'offer' to the RWT of the land downstream with its outstanding watermeadow survivals.

Negotiations have since resumed as have their discussions with HE, with a fresh [and final?] application expected to go in shortly – presumably with reduced numbers.

The issue remains time consuming and frustrating for us, as the River Wey Trust has funds earmarked for this site, and reluctant to spend elsewhere until 'finality' is achieved here

The Trust continue nonetheless with the CABI knotweed control trials here – placing and retrieving their psyllid traps and hunting (not very successfully) for 'free-range' psyllids

ALLEES MEADOW

Work has continued on the Radford Bridge land, and next door in the Trust's Allees Meadow, on balsam bashing sessions – the balsam remains widespread elsewhere, although some owners upstream are now also undertaking control

An energetic and effective Allees Meadow 'clearing' work party in was held in April

Planning is under way for tractor access onto the lower part of the Meadow, two little bridges – this will provide more work for the Trust's volunteers

GRIGGS GREEN

Two dying alders have been felled on the Trust's land there

Land transfer/registry to CIO has been completed of the land here and at Allees Meadow ;the 'old' RWT was then formally shut down

PLANNING

Symondstone (Churt) caravan park is attempting extending use to permanent: the Trust commented 'adversely', acknowledging its limited remit, but expressed serious concern regarding sewage disposal proposals, given the likely significant increase in volumes likely, and the impact on the small and sensitive nature of the stream, which feeds into Frensham Great Pond which already has severe eutrophication problems. In the event Certificate of Lawful use had not been granted and it was reported that the site had since been sold

The Trust had commented further to the consultants preparing EHDC's draft Green Infrastructure Plan, suggesting that the whole Southern Wey, in East Hampshire, should be included in their strategy (not just the Hammer to Headley Mill conservation areas): this appears to have been accepted

WATER QUALITY

In spring and autumn volunteers carried out measurements of ammonia and phosphate levels at 8 locations for the Thameswaterwatch bioblitz. Seasonal variations are noticeable, but are partly dependant on rainfall and river volume. The Trust has since acquired a set of testing devices and which should make the testing quicker and more accurate with less scope for (subjective) human error

A further development of the Trust's involvement in water quality measurement is the setting up of Kick sampling training (measuring the presence of invertebrates in streams)

PASSFIELD SLUICE FISHPASSAGE

Routine maintenance work on the Passfield fishpass is planned to take place shortly: a delivery of stone for topping up the pools is awaited

OUTREACH

A talk to the Chiddingfold Society in February was well-received

A walk for Conford residents in March was well-attended and much enjoyed

A walk/tour for members of the Wey Landscape Partnership is planned for later in the year.

Trustee Alistair Youngs's sandbox activity has been widespread and great ambassador as an educational tool; he has also taken in hand and transformed the Trust's website

WEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

This Catchment-wide grouping continues to provide a valuable (and enjoyable) forum for exchange of information and for valuable contacts:

Appendix 2 to River Wey Trust Annual Report 2018-2019

Financial report for the year to 30th April 2019

Financial reserves at the year end.

The reserves stand at £44,952 of which £5,141 are "designated funds" established to carry out work to facilitate the removal of barriers to movement of fish.

No work was carried out on the fish passage project so that earlier work could bed-down before determining next steps.

Other work and use of funds has been kept to a minimum whilst we await the outcome of a possible donation of land; this will if it happens require considerable project work and call heavily on our resources.

Income and Expenditure.

Gift aid at £239 represents that of two years.

The Fund Raising, with a net income of £296, was a poor year for a number of reasons; the prior year was £1,173. The Trustees are confident that this was a “one off” shortfall which will be corrected in the next year.

The nil Grants from Parishes reflect that we considered it inappropriate to call for donations whilst our funds are healthy and activity on project minimal.

PTD Jordan, Treasurer

The River Wey Trust (CIO Charity 1177871)
Statement of Financial Activities

| | Period Ended | 30th April 2019 | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---|
| | Unrestricted Funds | Designated Funds | Total Funds | For the Year Ended 30th April 2019 (see note 1) |
| Income: | | | | |
| Subscriptions Individuals | 1070 | | 1070 | 805 |
| Corporate | 100 | | 100 | 100 |
| Gift Aid (see note b) | 239 | | 239 | 0 |
| | 1409 | | 1409 | 905 |
| Grants from Parishes | 0 | | 0 | 200 |
| Grants from other organisations | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Donations | 156 | | 156 | 157 |
| Sales of merchandise | 57 | | 57 | 51 |
| Fees received | 40 | | 40 | 0 |
| Fund raising activity (*) | 781 | | 781 | 1873 |
| Interest | 170 | | 170 | 52 |
| Special Project Income | | | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | 2613 | 0 | 2613 | 3238 |
| Expenditure : | | | | |
| Administration | -371 | | -371 | -174 |
| Fund raising activity (*) | -485 | | -485 | -663 |
| Materials | | | 0 | -360 |
| Repairs, Maintenance & Projects | | | | |
| | -856 | 0 | -857 | -1197 |
| Net Income/ Expenditure | 1757 | 0 | 1757 | 2041 |
| Funds transferred | 38054 | 5141 | 43195 | 41154 |
| Funds carried forward | 39811 | 5141 | 44952 | 43195 |
| Balance Sheet as at 30th April 2019 | | | | |
| Assets | <u>Fixed Assets (see note c)</u> | | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| | Bank Current Account | | 12951 | 11194 |
| | Bank Deposit Account | | 32000 | 32000 |
| | | | <u>44952</u> | <u>43195</u> |
| Represented by | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | | 39811 | 38054 |
| | <u>Designated Funds</u> | | 5141 | 5141 |
| | | | <u>44952</u> | <u>43195</u> |

Note:

a) The comparative figures are for charity number 288831 transferred to CIO charity 1177871.

b) Gift aid of £239 is from 2016/7 (£115) and 2017/8 (£124)

- c) Nominal value of land acquired. True value considered too immaterial to have valued

ended
018
te a)

