



**RSPCA Sussex East  
& Hastings Branch**

Registered Charity No. 206314

# Annual Report & Accounts 2019



# Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the Sussex East and Hastings Branch of the RSPCA.

## Contents

Chair’s Report	3	Fundraising Report	9 - 10
Inspector’s Report	4 - 5	Bexhill Shop Report	11
Cattery Report	6 - 7	Treasurer’s Report	12
Dog Report	8	Report & Accounts	13



# Chair's Report

Dear Member,

The Branch is fortunate in having very hardworking Trustees who voluntarily give their time ensuring the Branch is run efficiently and adheres to all the legislation charities must incorporate. I thank them for their help and support. We welcomed Mandy Mitchell who joined the committee in June.

Bluebell Ridge, our Cattery, is managed by Myra Grove whose hard work ensures the high standards it is known for are maintained. She leads a dedicated staff team who are supported by a regular group of volunteers that are a vital part of the work force.

Whilst the Branch is no longer homing dogs, Sarah Parsons, a Trustee, manages the financial help given to dog owners when funds are available. She also initiated a scheme to help the dogs of homeless people in Hastings.

Unfortunately, our shop manager was off sick later in the year, however it continued to remain open with the help of Lorna Read, Jo Bilby, some of the Trustees and the volunteers, who do such a wonderful job.

The shop was closed in April for a few weeks for redecoration, a condition of the lease. This gave us an opportunity to clear and rearrange the stock.

'Capricorn' our house at the cattery, had to have extensive work done to rectify the damp course. It is essential we keep all our properties well maintained.

The proposed new buildings at the cattery, an isolation block and a fundraising/meeting room to replace the gazebo on the hard standing were granted planning permission and following estimates "Project Management" were selected to build them. WE hope work will start in 2020.

I would also like to mention how fortunate we are to have the experience of Nikki Di Girolamo who does our Marketing and Fundraising to promote the Branch.

On behalf of the Branch a big thank you to everyone who supports us by giving their time, giving donations, including us in their will and of course adopting one or more of our cats.

**Mary R Bristow**  
**Chair**



# Inspector's Report



It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual report for the Sussex Inspectorate for 2019.

It has been a year of change with staff reshuffle due to where staff live. We welcomed ACO Abbie Fight to the group from the South London Group. Superintendent Paul Stilgoe retired from the Society at the end of April and we wish him a well-deserved retirement.

We continued to task our own group as well as the Kent Group from my office through the spring and summer. This continued to work well and at the same time, the Inspectorate began the complicated task of moving to a new system of allocating incidents to the field. It is a new way of working for field staff. The old system was on its last legs and needed replacing. The process began in the North of the country and worked its way down to the Southeast groups in September. Like any new system it will take time to bed in but we should start seeing the fruits of the endeavour in the coming years. The system is adaptable and can change with the Society's needs.

We wish to offer our thanks to Sussex and Kent Police for their invaluable assistance. Our thanks also goes to East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation. David Buck, Chancellors and Brachers Solicitor teams also need to be thanked for their excellent presentation of evidence in our cases at court.

Our highly skilled intelligence teams also need a mention, who use state of the art technology to trace some of the miscreants who mistakenly think that by running off to other parts of the country they can escape the consequences of their cruel or neglectful actions.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the Sussex group, a big thank you to all of the Sussex and Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2019. Without you dedicating your time and efforts, we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

This year 20 cases were submitted resulting in 4 individuals being convicted, 7 Adult Written Cautions being issued, three cases awaiting trial, 4 cases are still under investigation.



To give you a taste of what we do, here are just a few of the things that we dealt with in the past year that you may find of interest...

### **Goat Rescue Near Brighton**

Inspector Woodley was called out to a goat stuck on a ledge near Brighton. Luckily, for Insp Woodley the East Sussex Fire and Rescue had a rope rescue team who responded. They were able to rescue the goat and return her back to a grateful owner.



### **Down Cow In Copsale, Horsham**

ACO Parsons and AWO Stevens were called to a property for a cow that was unable to get up. When they arrived, the owners were in desperate need of help with their herd of dexter cattle. The area was water logged with grass for grazing due to the bad weather. Even the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's vehicle became bogged down in the mud. They were able to rescue the cow and get into shelter. The owners were unable to effectively manage the herd and asked the Society for help. The owners decided the best thing to do for the welfare of the cattle was to sign over the entire herd to the Society.



### **Supporting The Community**

ACO Claire Thomas joined the Bexhill Festival of the Sea. ACO Thomas is our Regional Wildlife officer and has a great passion for wildlife. Claire attended on behalf of the group and helped the members of the public have a better understanding of the wildlife that is on our doorstep. Learning is the key part in understanding and the younger the better.



Every year comes with its own challenges and issues. However, working together whether staff or volunteer, Branch or Regional Animal Home, putting animal welfare to the forefront, we make a difference to the lives of many animals.

**Patrick S. Hamby**  
**Chief Inspector South East**

# Cattery Report

We rehomed 174 cats in 2019 and found forever homes for some of our longstanding cats, including Hettie who had behavioural problems, making her difficult to rehome. Thankfully a lovely experienced couple came forward and took her into their hearts and persevered with her somewhat difficult character. She has now settled in well and has found her forever home with them.



We continue to take in unwanted cats from our ever-growing waiting list at the cattery. It can certainly be a juggling act as we try to help as many people and cats as we can. The inspectorate kept us busy in 2019 with abandonments, cats from members of the public and the never-ending strays.

Some of these strays are sadly involved in road traffic accidents or have been roaming the great outdoors for some time. They can then become involved in territorial fighting, and encounter wounds that end up untreated for far too long. Our vet bills grow increasingly and we continue to fundraise for much needed funds.

There are so many stories, some happy, some sad - if only cats could talk! One I remember was eight kittens that were left in a flat to fend for themselves over the Christmas period and were not discovered until early January. They arrived scared, hungry and frightened. With our love, regular food and a comfortable pod to sleep in, they grew to trust again. We of course found them all loving homes which was such a pleasing end.

Not only does the centre take in and rehome cats but we also strive to get the word out about the importance of neutering as well as microchipping. We are sure that a proportion of cats which are brought in as strays, have owners and sadly there is no way to tell unless they are microchipped to identify them. If all cats were microchipped, this would save a lot of heartache and make our job a lot easier.

Neutering is one of the most important subjects on our agenda and is the principal answer to control the ever spiralling cat population in this country.

People do not realise that by not neutering they are contributing to the overpopulation problem. More than 90% of cats rehomed by rescue organisations are neutered by the rescue teams themselves, which considerably drains their resources. Neutering schemes are put in place with some charities, we currently have one running for people on low income at 1066 Vets.



In February and November, unfortunately, the cats had a virus and the cattery was forced to close for a month at a time. Viruses are inevitable when there are a lot of cats in close proximity, these particular ones were mild thankfully, so not many cats were on medications from our vet. However, closures hold up cats being adopted to new homes and other cats entering the centre. Once opened, we were very busy due to the help from the Hastings Observer who publicised our re openings and subsequently a lot of cats found homes.

In 2019, I attended a residential RSPCA Animal Welfare Conference with one of our Branch trustees. It was a very interesting and informative two days and we each had 5 workshops to attend with different topics as well as various presentations. It's always good to network with different centres and branches for ideas and to keep up to date with people, policies and procedures. An award ceremony was held on the last day. This was given to members of the inspectorate for outstanding duty to the RSPCA, which was very interesting to watch. It made us feel very proud to be part of an organisation that has been running since 1824.

People requesting veterinary help for their cats was on the increase in 2019. Vet treatment as we know can be costly and if we can possibly help with a consult fee for a cat (approximately £35) to be seen by a vet, this would be the way forward. The owner can then work out what needs to be done through that diagnosis. We have a budget that we use for the local community and do our best to help.

Overall, it has again been a busy year. We have had amazing support from the public who have been incredibly kind, either by sending money, sponsoring a pod, donating food, items to sell and generally supporting our events. Our social media continues to generate public interest on the work we do and most importantly highlights the cats that need rehoming. It is always a comforting thought that we have so many people wanting to help our Branch and I thank you all very much.

Finally, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to our dedicated staff who bring their own skills to work every day and work over and beyond to look after the animals in our care. Our lovely volunteers who give up their valuable time, and without them, we would find it very difficult as their help is invaluable. To the people behind the scenes Mary Bristow our chair, the Trustees, Jo Bilby - Finance and Administration, Becky Blackmore – RSPCA Branch Support Specialist for her help and knowledge, and to Senlac Vets for their continued support.

Thank you to Eastbourne Branch and Kent North West for their continued support during the year.

**Myra Grove**  
**Centre Manager**



# Dog Report

The Branch offers the Dog Welfare Scheme to help members of the local community who are in receipt of benefits to continue to care for their dogs by contributing towards vets fees. These fees are often expensive, with consultations alone in the region of £40. Even basic medication for a simple illness frequently results in a bill of between £75 to £100 and this sum of money is often difficult to find unexpectedly. The cost for treating general ear and eye infections can be around £150, fairly routine problems like dental work can be in the region of £300 - £500, and if anything more serious is suspected and investigative x-rays or blood tests are needed, these tests alone will frequently be hundreds of pounds. Also, when the time comes for a beloved dog to be put to sleep, we will help with the cost to ensure the dog is not suffering if it sadly cannot be helped any further.

Thanks to the generosity of the local communities who support our work, we have been able to contribute £3,476 to help 47 families pay for veterinary treatment for their dogs during 2019. We also continue to operate a subsidised neutering scheme for Staffie dogs in conjunction with 1066 vets in Battle Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea. 17 Staffies were neutered under this scheme during 2019. The benefits of dogs being neutered is something we stress to owners wherever we can, not only to reduce the number of puppies needing homes but also to reduce the possibility of behavioural problems and other health issues. A number of the dogs who required costly lifesaving operations during 2019 had health complications related to the fact that they had not been neutered. We continue to educate the public on this matter.

During late 2019, we also began to work with local charity, Surviving The Streets. This organisation provides support for the homeless community and we purchased new thermal dog coats, leads and collars for the canine companions of the homeless to help keep them safe and warm. A number of night shelters operate during winter months but these will only take dogs if they can be safely crated, and often homeless people won't take advantage of these schemes if they cannot take their dog with them, so we also purchased a number of crates to be used in the shelters, meaning more homeless people and their dogs could be cared for. At Christmas we provided around 130 tins of dog food and a number of new toys for the dogs.

Members of the public often take donations of cat and dog food to Bluebell Ridge and our shop in Western Road, Bexhill, these are very much appreciated.

**Sarah Parsons**  
**Dog Welfare Co-ordinator**





# Fundraising Report

2019 was a very successful year in fundraising and we are pleased to say that our following of supporters and donations has significantly grown.

We held five events throughout the year at Bluebell Ridge: an Easter Fun Day, Spring Fair, Summer Fair, Autumn Fair and a Halloween Fun Day. These events received more supporters than ever before with our Summer Fair receiving over 400 visitors, which is a record. All of these events raised a grand total of £6,327.

Throughout the year, we held four store collections in Morrison's, Hastings and Pets At Home, Bexhill, which raised a total of £696. We are eager to hold more store collections; however, we do not have enough fundraising volunteers to fill the collection slots. If you are interested in helping us in this way – we would love to hear from you.

We had two supporters take on challenge events in aid of the Branch. Sarah Nolan took on the Hastings Half Marathon in March and raised £605 and Zoe Kaye completed the Beachy Head 10K and raised £100. Thank you to both of them for taking on such arduous challenges and supporting our work.

At the beginning of the year, I set up a Facebook fundraising platform to help supporters raise funds on our behalf. A total of £658 was raised. Thank you to everyone who donated and created an online birthday fundraiser.

In July, Brenda and Graham Good held a jazz afternoon in their garden to celebrate Brenda's birthday and asked guests for gifts of donations to the Branch, raising £187. We are truly grateful for Brenda and Graham's support.



This year also saw our second art exhibition and movie night. The art exhibition was once again held in the gallery at St Mary in the Castle, which saw a lot of interest and raised £748. I would like to thank Sean Berkeley and Judy Rogers for kindly allowing us to use their gallery. Thank you also to the talented artists that kindly donated artwork and made the exhibition possible. Our Movie Night took place at the Kino-Teatr in St Leonards where over 100 people attended our showing of Bohemian Rhapsody, raising £742.

In December, we had to cancel our Christmas event due to a virus in the cattery. Instead, we were able to have a stall at The Sara Lee Trust's Christmas Fair where we raised £230. We would like to thank The Sara Lee Trust for their support. We also turned the cattery shop into a Christmas pop-up store, which made £172 and our Christmas raffle raised £683.

Throughout the year, we saw many local schools, businesses and groups supporting us by raising funds on our behalf, which we are extremely grateful for. We received donations from Baird School and many pupils at Guestling Bradshaw Primary. We also received donations from the following businesses and groups: Archers of Westfield, Aurelie & Rose, Battle Saxonwood WI, Blacklands Parish Group, Blue Reef, Conquerors March, Conveyancing Direct – Hastings, Hastings Adventure Golf, J.C.F Jewellers, La Bella Vista, Middle Farm, Motor Parts Direct, Paradise Park, Sackville Road Methodist Church, Bexhill, Sole to Soul Reflexology, The Clown, The Llama Park, The Stag, Pets At Home, Rohese Cattery, Tuesday Ladies Club, Webbs of Battle and Tenterden and the Westfield F3 Group. Thank you to you all for your amazing support.

Also, thank you to the fundraising team members and all of our wonderful volunteers who kindly give up their time to help at events, bake cakes and donate goods. In addition, we are truly thankful to everyone who supported our events and raised funds for the Branch in 2019.

We are always looking for new members to join our Fundraising Team. If you are interested, please email us at **[bluebellridge@outlook.com](mailto:bluebellridge@outlook.com)**

**Nikki Di Girolamo**  
**Income Generation & Marketing Officer**



# Bexhill Shop Report



## Your Local RSPCA Shop

16 Western Road, Bexhill-on-Sea

Tel: 01424 734562

## Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday  
10am – 4pm

The first half of the year was a little disappointing with regard to sales, with a mixture of average and bad months, however the second half of the year was exceptional and we witnessed unprecedented levels of trade.

For the first time we entered the Bexhill town Christmas window competition and we came fourth, this is a reflection of the tremendous hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers and an achievement that we are all immensely proud of. We also participated in the National Societies secret Santa, which was also very successful.

The level of donations continues to exceed expectations and the kindness of all who donate is much appreciated, in addition we continue to receive weekly parcels of dog and cat food which assists us in ensuring that the animals in our care get the food they need.

Work has started on improving corporate and local messaging within the shop, and we are working towards more sophisticated imaging and displays that portray fully the functions of the Branch.

The shop plays a pivotal role in raising much needed funds to support the Branch and we value everyone who donates goods, money, time and those who purchase, without them the shop could not function.

The staff who manage the shop on a day to day basis and the volunteers who ensure a fully stocked shop floor deserve special mention as without their hard work and dedication we could not have achieved the success we enjoyed this year.

Please continue to support us.

**Karen Packham**  
**Trustee**

# Treasurer's Report

An Independent Examiner's Report, rather than an Audit Report, is appropriate for the year ended 31 December 2019. Comprehensive notes to the Accounts are included by way of explanation and these form an important part of my report. It should be noted that "Restricted" funds are those held for a specific purpose e.g. Cat Rehoming Centre, and "Unrestricted" means funds available for general use with the objects of the Charity.

The Trustees have again worked extremely hard during 2019 to raise the profile of the Branch and cattery and thus much needed funds. Their dedication and commitment ensures that the Branch can continue with animal welfare in the local area.

## Branch Administrator



Charity registration number: 206314

Royal Society For The Prevention  
Of Cruelty To Animals  
- Sussex East and Hastings Branch

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Manningtons  
J T Straughan ACA  
7 Wellington Square  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1PD



**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Contents**

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 4
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7 to 8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 20

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Miss M R Bristow
<b>Trustees</b>	Miss M R Bristow Mrs J Barkley Andy Nash (co-opted) Sarah Parsons Peter Kemp David Garrood Graham Good Karen Packham Nicki Fisher
<b>Principal Office</b>	Bluebell Ridge Chowns Hill Hastings East Sussex TN35 4PA
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	206314
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Manningtons J T Straughan ACA 7 Wellington Square Hastings East Sussex TN34 1PD

# **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

## **Trustees' Report**

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated by Special Act of Parliament, the Sussex East and Hastings Branch was registered as a separate charity in 1962.

### **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees are listed on page 1.

### **OBJECTS**

The objects of the charity are to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals and to do all such lawful acts as the charity may consider being conducive or incidental to the attainment of these objects.

The Branch's animal welfare work, although local in nature, benefits society at large and also aims to help people in need with the care of animals. The next sections of this report highlight the Branch's main activities and demonstrate the benefit provided to the public. All our charitable activities, as described in more detail below, focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals and are undertaken to further these purposes for the public benefit.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commissions.

The charity is organised so that the trustees meet regularly to manage its affairs. There is one full time and one part time employee who manage the Bexhill shop, two full time employees and six part time employees who run Bluebell Ridge Cat Rehoming Centre supported by a team of volunteers, one part-time Income Generation and Marketing Officer and one part time Finance/Administration Officer. Most other activities are organised by volunteers.

### **INVESTMENT POWERS**

The Trust Deed authorises the Trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds of the charity.

### **DEVELOPMENT, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The main activities of the Branch are the Bluebell Ridge Cat Rehoming Centre, the Bexhill Charity Shop, assisting dog owners in need with veterinary fees as well as neutering bull breed dogs and cats. The Bluebell Ridge Centre was opened in June 2000 after years of planning and hard work, with the aid of finance from Mid-Sussex and Eastbourne Branch and RSPCA HQ/South East Region. In 2019 the centre re-homed 174 cats (2018:190) and helped 47 dog owners. The Bexhill shop usually trades profitably, the Cat Rehoming Centre is always in deficit. The hard work of the staff and volunteers at these establishments and elsewhere within the Branch is much appreciated and paramount to continued operations.

Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, micro chipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering. It also assists in controlling cat/dog populations through neutering, 110 animals (2018:114) were micro-chipped and 147 animals (2018:99) were neutered during the year. We re-home animals in need at low cost to people willing and able to have a companion animal. Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for the animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership.

A successful cross-charity initiative aimed at providing temporary shelter to homeless members of the public with dogs was piloted late in 2019.

# **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 6 and shows a surplus for the year due to an increase in legacies received. The Bexhill shop made a reasonable profit for the year of £14,007 (2018: £3,732).

The charity is grateful for the legacies, subscriptions and donations made during the year. The charity is grateful to the Friends of Bluebell Ridge, which was formed to support the Cat Rehoming Centre's expenses.

The Cat Rehoming Centre runs at a deficit each year and £74,500 has been transferred from the General Funds to the Restricted Funds.

### **USE OF VOLUNTEERS**

We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, fostering and fundraising. This benefits local people by providing the possibility of doing work, which is compassionate and rewarding.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees actively review the major risks, which the charity faces on a regular basis. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks, including the loss of key staff for the Cat Rehoming Centre. The trustees are exploring various ways of increasing income and reducing expenses for the Cat Rehoming Centre and maintaining the level of support for dogs' veterinary fees.

The Branch plans to build a new Isolation Unit, and to replace the existing fundraising gazebo at the Cat Rehoming Centre. This will enable the Branch to provide enhanced benefit to an increased number of cats in the future, and provide a multi-use meeting/education and fundraising event facility.

A working group has been set-up to review both existing activities and new projects, which could expand the charities animal welfare and public benefits.

Mid Sussex and Eastbourne Branch, have loaned the charity £50,000, which is repayable only when the Cat Rehoming Centre is sold. The available funds will finance activities for a further 12 months and arrangements are being made to raise further finance.

### **RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level, which equates to approximately twelve months' unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management of administration costs and is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The trustees have designated £170,000 of the assets held by the Branch as one years' running costs and redundancy.

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Trustees' Report**

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

All cash balances are held in interest bearing accounts. The Royal Dutch Shell Plc shares are retained as a long-term investment. The trustees review investments annually.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 3/8/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Miss M R Bristow  
Chief Executive Officer and Trustee



## **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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

The law applicable to charities 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;
- 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; and
- 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 keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 3/8/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Miss M R Bristow  
Chief Executive Officer and Trustee

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 7 to 20.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees of Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch 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 Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch'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.

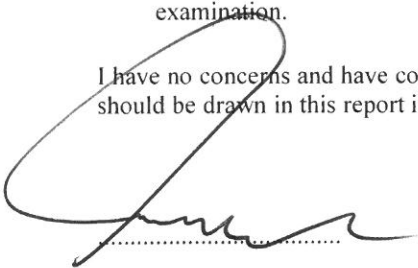
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch 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 accounting 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.



J T Straughan ACA  
Manningtons  
7 Wellington Square  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1PD

Date: 25/08/2020

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	114,644	24,863	139,507
Charitable activities		-	14,629	14,629
Other trading activities	3	75,946	14,430	90,376
Investment income	4	1,409	848	2,257
Other income		25	18,787	18,812
Total income		<u>192,024</u>	<u>73,557</u>	<u>265,581</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds		(43,532)	(7,908)	(51,440)
Charitable activities	7	(1,400)	(167,838)	(169,238)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(49,932)</u>	<u>(175,746)</u>	<u>(225,678)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		142,092	(102,189)	39,903
Gross transfers between funds		(77,522)	77,522	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		<u>(1,093)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,093)</u>
Net movement in funds		63,477	(24,667)	38,810
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>687,065</u>	<u>155,791</u>	<u>842,856</u>
Total funds carried forward	20	<u>750,542</u>	<u>131,124</u>	<u>881,666</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	243,547	29,364	272,911
Charitable activities		-	39,939	39,939
Other trading activities	3	69,562	10,654	80,216
Investment income	4	1,368	166	1,534
Other income		340	1,958	2,298
Total income		<u>314,817</u>	<u>82,081</u>	<u>396,898</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds		(37,190)	(6,377)	(43,567)
Charitable activities	7	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(156,000)</u>	<u>(157,400)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(38,590)</u>	<u>(162,377)</u>	<u>(200,967)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		276,227	(80,296)	195,931
Gross transfers between funds		(65,000)	65,000	-

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		1,244	-	1,244
Net movement in funds		212,471	(15,296)	197,175
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		474,594	171,087	645,681
Total funds carried forward	20	687,065	155,791	842,856

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2018 is shown in note 20.

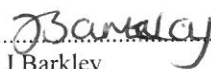
**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**(Registration number: 206314)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019**

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	242,010	248,873
Investments	15	<u>21,620</u>	<u>22,713</u>
		<u>263,630</u>	<u>271,586</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	16	482	984
Debtors	17	4,831	13,505
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>667,718</u>	<u>608,161</u>
		673,031	622,650
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>(4,995)</u>	<u>(1,380)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>668,036</u>	<u>621,270</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		931,666	892,856
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	19	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>881,666</u>	<u>842,856</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>		131,124	155,791
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		<u>750,542</u>	<u>687,065</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	20	<u>881,666</u>	<u>842,856</u>

The financial statements on pages 7 to 20 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 3/8/2020 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Miss M R Bristow  
Chief Executive Officer and Trustee

  
Mrs J Barkley  
Trustee



# **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

### **1 Accounting policies**

#### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis of preparation**

Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

#### **Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement**

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

#### **Going concern**

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

#### **Income and endowments**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### **Donations and legacies**

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

#### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### **Raising funds**

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

## **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

#### ***Charitable activities***

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### **Support costs**

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

#### **Governance costs**

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £50.00 or more are initially recorded at cost.

#### **Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Equipment Cat Rehoming Centre	15% Reducing Balance
Bexhill Shop Fixtures and Fittings	25% Reducing Balance

#### **Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

#### **Stock**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

## **Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

#### **Trade debtors**

are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade Debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price.

#### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### **Trade creditors**

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade Creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price.

#### **Fund structure**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### **Exceptional Adjustment**

A rent deposit debtor has been incorrectly recognised for a number of years. The trustees believe this related to a leased shop that was surrendered circa 2011 and that the deposit would have been returned. An exceptional adjustment in the sum of £5,000 has been recognised in the statement of financial activities in relation to this historic deposit.

No deposit is held in respect of the current leased shop.

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
	<b>General</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	5,517	22,051	27,568	31,266
Legacies	109,017	500	109,517	239,307
Gift aid reclaimed	110	2,312	2,422	2,338
	<u>114,644</u>	<u>24,863</u>	<u>139,507</u>	<u>272,911</u>

**3 Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
	<b>General</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trading income;				
Shop income from sale of donated goods and services	48,772	3,146	51,918	44,585
Events income;				
Other events income	-	11,284	11,284	8,123
Local fundraising and street collection income	26,629	-	26,629	26,509
Sponsorship income	513	-	513	678
Membership subscriptions	32	-	32	321
	<u>75,946</u>	<u>14,430</u>	<u>90,376</u>	<u>80,216</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**4 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds			
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	funds	2019	2018
		£	£	£
Income from dividends;				
Dividends receivable from other				
listed investments	1,409	-	1,409	1,368
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	-	848	848	166
	1,409	848	2,257	1,534

**5 Other income**

	Unrestricted funds			
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	funds	2019	2018
		£	£	£
Fees and supplies	25	16,112	16,137	(102)
Rental income	-	2,675	2,675	2,400
	25	18,787	18,812	2,298

**6 Expenditure on raising funds**

**a) Costs of generating donations and legacies**

		Restricted	Total	Total
	Note	funds	2019	2018
		£	£	£
Donations		653	653	152

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**b) Costs of trading activities**

		Unrestricted funds		Total 2019	Total 2018
	Note	General £	Restricted funds £	£	£
Costs of goods sold		850	6,505	7,355	5,869
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		203	425	628	653
Other direct costs of activities for generating funds		21,883	-	21,883	17,599
		<u>22,936</u>	<u>6,930</u>	<u>29,866</u>	<u>24,121</u>

**c) Investment management costs**

		Unrestricted funds		Total 2019	Total 2018
	Note	General £	Restricted funds £	£	£
Finance charges;					
Bank charges		60	325	385	180
		<u>60</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>385</u>	<u>180</u>

**7 Expenditure on charitable activities**

		Unrestricted funds		Total 2019	Total 2018
	Note	General £	Restricted funds £	£	£
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		-	6,685	6,685	6,685
Staff costs		-	123,236	123,236	105,938
Allocated support costs		-	37,917	37,917	43,377
Governance costs		1,400	-	1,400	1,400
		<u>1,400</u>	<u>167,838</u>	<u>169,238</u>	<u>157,400</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**8 Other expenditure**

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2019
	General £	£
Exceptional Rental Expense	5,000	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>

**9 Analysis of governance and support costs**

**Governance costs**

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	General £	£	£
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,400	1,400	1,400
	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>

**10 Net incoming/outgoing resources**

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2019 £	2018 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	7,313	7,338
Finance charges payable	<u>385</u>	<u>180</u>

**11 Staff costs**

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	143,033	124,884
Other staff costs	<u>739</u>	<u>168</u>
	<u>143,772</u>	<u>125,052</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year



**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**12 Independent examiner's remuneration**

	2019 £	2018 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>

**13 Taxation**

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

**14 Tangible fixed assets**

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2019	377,394	11,713	389,107
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>450</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>377,394</u>	<u>12,163</u>	<u>389,557</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2019	131,718	8,516	140,234
Charge for the year	<u>6,685</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>7,313</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>138,403</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>147,547</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2019	<u>238,991</u>	<u>3,019</u>	<u>242,010</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>245,676</u>	<u>3,197</u>	<u>248,873</u>

**15 Fixed asset investments**

	2019 £	2018 £
Other investments	<u>21,620</u>	<u>22,713</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**Other investments**

	Listed investments £	Total £
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>		
At 1 January 2019	22,713	22,713
Revaluation	<u>(1,093)</u>	<u>(1,093)</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>21,620</u>	<u>21,620</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 December 2019	<u>21,620</u>	<u>21,620</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>22,713</u>	<u>22,713</u>

**16 Stock**

	2019 £	2018 £
Stocks	<u>482</u>	<u>984</u>

**17 Debtors**

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade debtors	3,138	11,992
VAT recoverable	<u>1,693</u>	<u>1,513</u>
	<u>4,831</u>	<u>13,505</u>

**18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	<u>4,995</u>	<u>1,380</u>

**19 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year**

	2019 £	2018 £
Other loans	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**20 Funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 January 2019 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Other recognised gains/(losses) £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	687,065	191,323	(49,231)	(77,522)	(1,093)
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<u>155,791</u>	<u>73,840</u>	<u>(176,029)</u>	<u>77,522</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>842,856</u>	<u>265,163</u>	<u>(225,260)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,093)</u>
					<b>Balance at 31 December 2019 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds					750,542
<b>Restricted funds</b>					<u>131,124</u>
<b>Total funds</b>					<u>881,666</u>
	<b>Balance at 1 January 2018 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Other recognised gains/(losses) £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	474,594	314,306	(38,079)	(65,000)	1,244
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<u>171,087</u>	<u>82,363</u>	<u>(162,659)</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>645,681</u>	<u>396,669</u>	<u>(200,738)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,244</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings  
Branch**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	<b>Balance at 31 December 2018 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	
Unrestricted general funds	687,065
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<u>155,791</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>842,856</u></u>

**21 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>General £</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	242,010	242,010
Fixed asset investments	21,620	-	21,620
Current assets	502,596	170,435	673,031
Current liabilities	(1,381)	(3,614)	(4,995)
Creditors over 1 year	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u><u>522,835</u></u>	<u><u>358,831</u></u>	<u><u>881,666</u></u>

**22 Analysis of net funds**

	<b>At 1 January 2019 £</b>	<b>Cash flow £</b>	<b>At 31 December 2019 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	608,161	59,557	667,718
Net debt	<u>608,161</u>	<u>59,557</u>	<u>667,718</u>

## **Our Vision**

is a world where all animals are respected  
and treated with compassion.

## **Our Mission**

is by all lawful means to prevent cruelty, promote  
kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.



**Sussex East and Hastings Branch**

[www.bluebellridge.org.uk](http://www.bluebellridge.org.uk)