

Chairman's Report for the Annual Public Meeting of The River Wey Trust, November 2020

2020 has been an unforgettable and devastating year for so many people, not only in this country, but across the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way in which we all have to live, and we have had to adjust our aspirations and hopes for the future, none of which we could have foreseen at our Annual Public meeting a year ago.

Adrian Bird

As if this was not enough, it was with great sadness that we followed the dignified battle that our founder, Adrian Bird, fought against his own illness, over many months, compounded by the restrictions that were in place due to the pandemic. With enormous fortitude, Adrian continued remotely, to organise and contribute to the Trust, always with an eye to present and future projects, and the continuation of all that was, and has to be carried out, throughout the year.

Adrian was a remarkable man. With his school-boy humour, and a twinkle in his eye, he walked through the village, raising his battered hat to the ladies whom he met, and always with a quip to cheer the day.

His lifelong knowledge of the history, archaeology and hydrology of the local area, coupled with his architectural talent, gave birth to not only The River Wey Trust, but also the Bramshott and Liphook Preservation Society, and its Sunken Lanes project, which ensured conservation and husbandry of the local patchwork of sunken lanes, and RWT owned land such as Allees Meadow. Adrian and volunteers were responsible for the work on the Radford Aqueduct, and he ensured its subsequent listing, together with work on the sluices, fish passages and machinery of the River Wey, where it flowed through the area,

I think it is fair to say that Bramshott and Liphook owes a great debt to Adrian, for his conservation skills, and for enthusing so many people over the years, to join in the preservation of the River Wey and its environs, as it flows through this area. Adrian's reputation was widely spread, and he contributed greatly to East Hampshire District Council's Heritage team, with his wealth of knowledge across the District. Many outside bodies benefitted from the interaction that they gained, with The River Wey Trust.

Trustees and Friends alike must strive to continue and fulfil all that Adrian instigated, as a lasting memorial to his life.

Trust activities

The main fund-raising event of the Annual Pimm's party by the River, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions, as has the Annual Public meeting, usually held in November. It is not yet known whether they will be able to be held next year, although we hope that this will be possible.

The restrictions have not stopped working parties from carrying out Balsam bashing in Allees Meadow, and psyllid monitoring and knotweed control in the same area, although river kick-testing has been postponed until Spring 2021. Still contemplated for next Spring as well are sluice repairs, at Passfield Sluice.

Sandbox

Over the past 18 months, Alistair Young has taken his Sandbox around the country, visiting schools and events, and demonstrating to, and entralling visitors with, all that the sandbox has to offer. A gazebo has now been bought that will enable the sandbox to be housed in the dark conditions that it needs, in order to operate effectively.

New Trustees

Peter Harris was nominated to be a new Trustee as the representative of the Bramshott and Liphook Preservation Society, and Adrian's daughter, Emma Bird, had been invited to be an Appointed Trustee, to continue the family connection. Both were formally welcomed at the last meeting of the River Wey Trust held on the 1st October, with the Schedule of Trustees amended accordingly and the Charity Commission informed. We are delighted that they have joined the Trust, and I know how positive their contribution will be.

Finally, I must thank all the Trustees for their support throughout the year, and for enabling the work of the Trust, so ably carried out by Adrian, and the team, to continue. Not only does it continue, but I know that Adrian would be impressed by the expertise and dedication that each member has applied to every aspect of the Trust's work. In addition to this of course, we also have the continuing support of all those members of The River Wey Trust, and friends, who have supported us in the past, and continue to do so.

We hope that 2021 will offer us the opportunity to return to our annual events, and projects, and to continue all that The River Wey Trust works towards achieving, secure in the knowledge that this is exactly what Adrian would have wished for.

Angela Glass
Chairman.

Appendix 1

Executive Sub-committee report for the Annual Public Meeting – November 2020

Formation of the Executive Sub-committee

In order to protect the achievements and legacy of Adrian Bird with regard to the RWT, the trustees have agreed that the Executive Sub-committee should be reconstituted. The object is to ensure that the many roles and activities previously performed by Adrian will continue to be performed into the future. Therefore, the sub-committee has allocated the responsibility for each existing role or activity to an individual trustee. Other trustees, and friends of the trust, will be asked to assist with the various activities as required.

The trustees have also agreed that the sub-committee will be responsible for some new activities (i.e. organized river walks, a kick-testing initiative and a schools initiative). These new projects were discussed with, and supported by Adrian, but will not start until the covid-19 pandemic has been brought under control.

The sub-committee will be chaired by Angela Glass. John Carne will be the secretary and Simon Bleach will act as facilitator. It is intended that any trustee may be a member of the sub-committee as they wish

Activities during the year and plans for the future

- At Allees Meadow, some necessary coppicing of trees on the boundary has been completed. In July, Peter Harris organized a well-attended, and successful balsam bash at Allees Meadow and on the land owned by Green Construct. There has been some investigation into the precise location of the north-eastern boundary of the land belonging to the trust and it is hoped that this will be settled soon. In the meantime, a management plan for the meadow is being drawn-up.
- Several trustees visited the land that the trust owns at Griggs Green in Liphook. It appears that nobody is walking on or crossing this land. However, the trustees intend to obtain a tree surgeon's report on some of the potentially dangerous trees on the land and will investigate appropriate signage regarding public access.
- In February 2020, Simon Bleach developed a training programme for kick testing, in conjunction with Frensham Fly Fishers. Due to the restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, this programme has been postponed until at least spring 2021.
- Monitoring of the Japanese Knotweed on the land at Radford Bridge continued throughout the Spring and Summer. Under guidance from Colin Pratt of CABI Europe, Roger Miller with assistance from John Hilder and Dr. Geoff Goulston placed psyllid traps in five locations on the control site in May. After one week the traps were collected and sent to CABI for review. Unfortunately, no response has been received from CABI possibly due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- During the year, the trust planned to install additional stone in the fish passage at the Passfield Sluice. Unfortunately, this is another activity that has been delayed by the pandemic. The necessary stone is available for the work to be carried out and it is hoped that this will happen next Spring.
- Alistair Young and Roger Miller are working on an update of the River Wey Trust Guidebook. The update of the guide was started by Adrian, and it is hoped that it will be completed early in 2021. The plan is for the updated version of the guide to be published in electronic form and for it to be available on the trust website.
- In February, Simon Bleach attended the most recent meeting of the Wey Landscape Partnership and will continue to represent the trust at future meetings. The next (remote) meeting of this group is being arranged for November.
- Alistair Young previously organised some successful sandbox displays at various events and schools and this has provided some useful additional funding for the trust. Unfortunately, like many of the trust activities this year, the displays have been curtailed by the pandemic. Alistair is planning on resurrecting the displays as soon as practicable.

Finally, it should be reported that there has been little progress or activity with regard to the potential development at Radford Bridge, during the year. The developers are considering submitting a new planning application, but have been unable to organize the necessary on-site meetings due to the pandemic. The RWT remains keen to acquire the land offered by the developer as part of this project and will therefore continue to liaise with the developers and monitor their progress.

Simon Bleach

Facilitator – Executive Sub-committee

The River Wey Trust
Statement of Financial Activities

	Year Ending Unrestricted Funds	30th April 2020 Designated Funds	Total Funds	For the Year Ended 30th April 2019
Income:				
Subscriptions: Individuals	705		705	1070
Corporate	0		0	100
Gift Aid (see note a)	0		0	239
	705		705	1409
Grants from Parishes	50		50	0
Grants from other organisations	0		0	0
Donations received	321		321	156
Sales of merchandise	73		73	57
Fees received	542		542	40
Fund raising activity (*)	1563		1563	781
Interest	207		207	170
Special Project Income	0		0	0
Total Income	3461	0	3461	2613
Expenditure :				
Administration	-611		-611	-371
Fund raising activity (*)	-580		-580	-485
Fund Raising net	983		983	296
Donation given	-250		-250	0
Repairs, Maintenance & Projects	-1321		-1321	0
	-2762	0	-2762	-855
Net Income/ Expenditure	699	0	699	1757
Funds from prior years	39811	5141	44952	43195
Funds carried forward	40510	5141	45651	44952
Balance Sheet as at				
		30th April 2020		
Assets	<u>Fixed Assets</u>		1	1
	<u>Current Assets</u>			
	Bank Current Account		6650	12951
	Bank Deposit Account		39000	32000
			45651	44952
Represented by	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		40510	39811
	<u>Designated Funds</u>		5141	5141
			45651	44952

Note:

a) Gift aid for 2019-2020 to be claimed. Prior year was for two years.

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The River Wey Trust (CIO 1177871)

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30th April 2020, which are set out on page 1.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

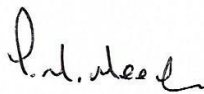
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



C M Meech FCA
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22nd October 2020