



**RSPCA Sussex East
& Hastings Branch**

Registered Charity No. 206314

Annual Report & Accounts 2020



Welcome

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

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Chair's Report

Dear Member,

Two thousand and twenty was a year like no other, who would have thought that by March, life would change so much for us all.

As a charity, our priority was to continue to care for the cats at Bluebell Ridge Cattery, as well as continuing to support dogs in need. This meant that although the Cattery had to close to the public, it had to be made as Covid safe as possible, purchasing all the equipment necessary to protect the staff who continued to work throughout the year.

As all fundraising events ceased and the Charity Shop closed, the loss of income was worrying. We very much appreciated the donations given to us.

In particular, the legacies kindly left to the Branch have helped to secure the immediate future and we appreciate those who chose to support us.

The passing of plans to replace the Gazebo with a permanent building, containing electricity, water and heating was an exciting prospect and building work was due to start, but had to be put on hold, due to the pandemic.

Sadly, Jim Fiddimore passed away during the year, as vice Chair of the Branch, he worked all hours helping animals in our area, prior to his retirement. Jim was responsible for helping the Branch secure the land where Bluebell Ridge is situated. He was indeed a very valued member.

Beryl Barrett also passed away this year, she was a strong supporter of the work we do for dogs in our area and contributed so much to the Branch.

Looking forward to next year, hopefully welcoming everyone back to the Cattery and our Charity Shop, we will also be able to celebrate the Cattery's 21 years since it was opened.

No Branch would succeed without the dedication of the Trustees, Managers, Staff and Volunteers. Thank you all.

Mary R Bristow
Chair



Inspector's Report



It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual report for The Sussex Inspectorate for 2020.

Where do I begin! It has been a most challenging year for all of us, whether you are a volunteer or staff member. We had a contractual change towards the end of 2019 and thought we could start afresh in 2020. We were starting to settle in with working a new system called Wilberforce, which was just a new way of working, but in general a new year and a fresh start. Who would have thought that in two months' time the whole country would come to a stop.

One of the consequences of the lockdown was our finances. The Charity sector was hit very hard whether you were in animal welfare or fighting cancer, all of us were affected. Drastic action was needed to stem the losses the Society was suffering. In April we embarked on a restructuring like no other time seen in the Society's history. We had to reduce expenditure by 20 million pounds, which meant job losses throughout the Society as well as frontline staff, regional animal homes and animal hospitals.

While going through the process, we saw the pandemic get worse and worse. We had to reduce the work we do in the field as the pandemic tightened its grip on the country. We had to protect staff as well as the public from the pandemic, but we also had a responsibility for those animals still in need of our help. Through the dedication of our Branches and frontline staff, we still continued to do the work we all feel so passionate about. Brighton Branch was an example of stepping up to the challenge like others in the region, they opened their kennels and cattery to anything we in the field would end up with for various reasons. Without question, Jenny Wells, Patcham's Manager, accepted animals throughout the county as well from other areas. Working in partnership with Jenny, we were able to take animals that were in need.

Once the process lasted all summer, we continued to work under strange working practices as the pandemic continued and we were still able to help those animals in need, despite it all. When the consultation was completed, it was very difficult as we all had to say goodbye to a lot of colleagues of which we had worked with for many years.

We saw the closure of South Godstone and Putney Animal Hospital, Southall Clinic and Cattery as well. This was an attempt to rebalance resources in the South as the North have limited animal centres. Due to the restructure, the group has lost the areas of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks including Kent West, which is a great loss to the group as they have been very supportive of the Sussex Group.

We are now in a much stronger position to go forward and do what we do best for animals in need. We also saw the creation of Animal Rescue Officers, who take the place of Animal Collection Officers and Animal Welfare Officers. This new role after their training allows them to do complaints including emergency ones, as well as collections and rescues. This gives us more scope to attend more incidents and utilise our officers better.

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.

Of course we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually rehome them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

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 2020. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

Patrick S. Hamby 407
Chief Inspector Sussex Group

Cattery Report

Who would have thought that in the months of January and February, as we carried on normally that in March the whole country would be in something called 'Lockdown' due to a fatal virus.

Businesses, shops and offices closed and the streets were deserted as the government advised people to 'stay at home' as cases rose and the hospitals became overwhelmed. We were like a lot of people in unknown and scary territory.

Bluebell Ridge closed its doors with reference to the Government Guidelines in March. We had no contact with the public except by telephone and emails, and no volunteers and reduced staff. Our staff became known as 'key workers' carrying on, caring for the animals at our centre.

The message from the RSPCA was to take in inspectorate only animals, as this would be the largest intake and would come under animals in need. We had very few cats and felt that we were in a good position to help as we had spaces and less cats than normal. We had a litter of kittens and an adult cat, which I managed to move to a foster carer. This was a good way forward for them as it was very indefinite as to how long we would be closed. During this time, we thought that the centre would become full with unwanted cats, how wrong we were.

We became quiet with cat intake and basically waited for cats to come in, which they didn't. We started to realise at this stage that people were of course at home in lockdown. They had more time for their animals and basically needed them mentally and physically as animals started to play an important part in this strange new life, so less cats were wanting to be rehomed.

On the positive side, we continued doing adoptions for the cats in our care. These were done virtually through photos, videos and telephone. The staff picked up this new procedure very quickly and soon found that this way was thorough and worked really well.

The inspectorate/AROs in our area helped us by delivering the cats that went through the adoption process to their new homes. They also collected any cats that needed to come into the centre.



I would like to thank Claire Thomas ARO for all her help. In her busy work schedule, she managed to fit in the additional tasks asked by the Branch, in her own cheery fashion, which helped us considerably.

As the pandemic progressed, we started to hear that the RSPCA were being affected financially. A lot of the charity sectors were being hit very hard by no income. It saddened us that a huge amount of staff were made redundant from HQ, and this also included the inspectorate. There were also closures of centres, which will be greatly missed by all.

Some Branches across the country were really struggling with money and continue to do so. A Branch Emergency Funding Scheme was set up to help those affected. A very substantial amount of £1 million was raised by April, through 49 branches, and 4 regional RSPCA Boards which greatly supported those struggling.

The situation with Covid-19 certainly kept us on our toes as it continued to change on a daily and sometimes hourly basis and procedures had to be followed. We also got used to the secure ways of working, taped secure areas, social distancing, hand sanitizers, wearing masks, watching videos on hand washing, and basically using Covid vocabulary!

Restrictions slowly eased during summer, which took the pressure off. The Centre still remained closed, we were however able to deliver cats to adopters and accept cats in to the centre, by meeting people in the car park, which felt a little more normal. Of course things then changed again as we were then in the grip of the worst of the Pandemic as Autumn/Winter approached.

We rehomed 110 cats in 2020, which is lower than past years. However, considering the circumstances, still a reasonable amount of cats.

I would like to thank our vets Senlac who have been amazing through all this. They kept their Covid Secure surgery open, and really tried to continue working as normally as they could being guided by the RCVS and BVA. Nothing was too much trouble for them, as we all got used to working differently, they continued to do our weekly vet visit by telephone, videos and appointments.



Thank you to the very generous people who sent in money to us during a time when finances were particularly difficult for a lot of people. Also for supporting us with cat and dog food and sponsoring a cat pod. It is a comforting thought that we have so many people wanting to help their local rehoming centre.

To our lovely volunteers who I know missed coming up and spending precious time with the cats, as much as we missed them! Thank you to those that did come up and helped with taking cats to the vets, and other tasks. Including the volunteer gardeners who helped keep the grounds looking smart. We hope to see you all in 2021.

To the people behind the scenes Mary Bristow our chair, The Trustees, Jo Bilby Finance and Administration.

A massive thank you to Becky Blackmore Branch Support Specialist RSPCA for her help, encouragement and knowledge over so many years. Becky worked with the Branch through good times and I have to say hard and tough times. She left HQ and her role, in September 2020 along with 270 other colleagues during a very difficult time for the RSPCA. She is now working in a branch capacity using her expertise, and we wish her good luck.

Finally, I would like to say a special heart felt thank you to the staff for pulling together during an extremely challenging year. Who came to work daily and continued to look after the cats in our care during a difficult and strange time. Adjusting to new procedures and ways of working and continuing to bringing their own special skills every day, doing what they do best.

Myra Grove
Centre Manager



Dog Report

During 2020, the Branch continued to offer a Dog Welfare Scheme to help towards the vets fees for members of the local community who are in receipt of benefits. As we all know, caring for animals can be expensive and the average cost for a consultation with most vets in the area is now in the region of £45. Usually this consultation is just the starting point and it will identify the need for medication and perhaps tests or surgery, the cost of which can run into hundreds or even thousands of pounds. We have also continued to assist with the cost of dogs being put to sleep in a timely manner to prevent any suffering when it has been established that there is no more that can be done to improve or maintain their quality of life.

Last year, despite the challenging situation presented by Covid-19 and the drastic reduction in income from our shop and fundraising activities, we contributed a total of £3242 to help 52 families to continue to care for their dogs. We also still have the co-operation and assistance from 1066 vets in Battle Road, St Leonards, in offering a subsidised scheme for neutering bull breed dogs. This was suspended for a period of time during the year, as only urgent medical care was being provided, but 8 dogs were neutered under this scheme during 2020. We continue to stress the benefit of neutering family pets and strongly encourage this to reduce the chances of health issues, behavioural issues and the number of unwanted puppies needing a home.

We continued to support the local charity, Surviving the Streets, by providing approximately 575 tins of dog food to help both the homeless community and supply to local foodbanks for people in need during the crisis. In addition to this many hundreds of tins, pouches and bags of food, chews, bedding, blankets and toys were donated by members of the public, either at Bluebell Ridge cattery, or at our shop in Western Road, Bexhill, these were also passed onto grateful recipients. We also continued to pass some of these donated items to another local organisation who run a doggy food bank to help the community. Donations of any kind, be it food and other supplies, cat pod sponsorship at Bluebell Ridge, regular standing orders, one off financial donations, purchases from or donations of goods to our shop in Bexhill, are so much needed, particularly at the moment, and very gratefully received.

Sarah Parsons
Dog Welfare Co-ordinator



Fundraising Report

The Branch is totally reliant on fundraising and donations to fund our work and we are extremely grateful to all those who supported us in 2020.

Fundraising in-person was severely affected by the impact of coronavirus and lockdowns throughout the year. No events of any size were held and all formal challenge events were cancelled.

Appeals to the local community and general public were prioritised to support our work by donating, which saw a rise in online donations and Facebook fundraisers. Entries for our Christmas raffle also doubled, generating more funds than usual.

Our digital presence was also reviewed and this has resulted in the launch of our brand new website and increased social media output.

This year, the Branch received income from gifts in wills, a vital source of funding for us. This gives us the security to plan our future so that we can continue to make a difference, helping local animals in need.

Developments for a fundraising building at Bluebell Ridge were confirmed with works to start in spring 2021. Once events resume, we plan to generate more income by hosting all year round events in the new building.

During exceptionally difficult circumstances, we were able to change our way of working, and alter the focus to maintain income for the Branch through as many streams as possible.

Our sincere thanks go to all the companies, organisations and individuals who have supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Nikki Di Girolamo
Income Generation & Marketing Officer



Charity Shop Report



Your Local RSPCA Shop

16 Western Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1DX

Tel: 01424 734562

2020 has been a very difficult year aside from having to close the shop for the vast majority of the year because of the pandemic we also had to recruit new Managers. We are fortunate that we were able to appoint two outstanding candidates, Lorna Read who works 5 days a week and the Jo Bilby who works 1 day a week, ensuring that when legally permitted to open we could do.

Despite the obstacles and ensuring that we were covid-19 compliant; when open business was very good, with levels of trade exceeding expectations with high levels of donations ensuring that we always had a fully stocked shop.

We have not been able to build on the achievements of the previous year due to the stop/start nature of having the shop open, but we are looking forward and are confident that we will be able to implement new ideas which will ensure the continued success of the shop.

The shop plays a pivotal role in raising much needed funds to support the Branch and we value tremendously all who donate goods, money and time, in addition to those who make purchases, we could not function without their continued support.

Without the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers we could not achieve the level of success that we have, and a special thank you goes to them who have remained loyal throughout these difficult times and we look forward to welcoming them back together with customers both old and new in the not too distant future.

Thank you for your support.

Karen Packham
Trustee

Treasurer's Report

An Independent Examiner's Report, rather than an Audit Report, is appropriate for the year ended 31 December 2020. 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 2020 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 2020

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

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

Reference and Administrative Details

Chief Executive Officer	Miss M R Bristow
Trustees	Miss M R Bristow Mrs J Barkley Andy Nash (co-opted) Sarah Parsons Peter Kemp David Garrood Graham Good Karen Packham Nicki Fisher
Principal Office	Bluebell Ridge Chowns Hill Hastings East Sussex TN35 4PA
Charity Registration Number	206314
Bankers	CAF Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
Independent Examiner	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 2020.

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 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 four 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 2020 the centre re-homed 110 cats (2019:174) and helped 52 (2019:47) 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, 72 animals (2019:110) were micro-chipped and 44 animals (2019:147) 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.

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

Trustees' Report

A pilot of a cross-charity initiative aimed at providing temporary shelter to homeless members of the public with dogs in late 2019, proved to be successful and was continued throughout 2020. This initiative having expanded to not only provide dog food to the homeless, but also during the pandemic to a food bank that services the wider local community.

The Covid-19 pandemic inevitably raised many challenges to the ongoing work of the charity during the year, both financially and socially.

With the Charity Shop being closed and the Rehoming centre being closed to the public, along with only having minimal staff and volunteers on-site, alternative solutions have had to be considered and implemented in accordance with provided guidelines.

Staff have necessarily taken on more of the daily burden, due to volunteers being limited on-site, while off-site welfare work has been able to continue with all reasonable restrictions being observed.

Where applicable, remote working has been implemented, and meetings have been held via Video-Conferencing or exceptionally at an outside venue where allowed by the regulations. The branch's AGM unfortunately had to be postponed (following the RSPCA guidelines and rules), and will instead take place in 2021.

The Trustees having taken suitable advice have incorporated the trustees as a body into a specific legal entity. This action will significantly lighten the administrative burden of the branch, as it is now able to enter into Transactions, Contracts and Leases as a specific named entity, rather than as individually named trustees acting 'On-Behalf of' the charity. The trustees will naturally change over time as people leave and join, and this will negate the need for constant checks and subsequent amendments to be undertaken.

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 small profit for the year of £3,798 (2019: £14,007).

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 small profit for the year of £3,798 (2019: £14,007).

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.

Physical Fundraising events have had to be cancelled throughout the year, and have been replaced with online Fundraising activities wherever possible. While significant extra expenditure has been required to ensure a 'Covid Safe' working environment, including staff being furloughed or working from home where possible.

Income streams have been hit severely by the Covid-19 closures and distancing measures to protect staff, volunteers and the public, but helped by having the benefit of a Covid-19 business grant being provided by the local Council, and the Governments furlough scheme assistance re the staff during enforced charity shop closures.

Property assets have not been significantly affected by the pandemic

The Cat Rehoming Centre runs at a deficit each year and £90,500 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.

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

Trustees' Report

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 has taken the decision to replace the existing fundraising gazebo at the Cat Rehoming Centre, which will enable the Branch to provide a multi-use meeting/education and fundraising event facility. This was expected to complete during 2020, but due to Covid-19 restrictions it has been pushed back to commence in 2021. The previous plans to also build a new Isolation Unit to provide enhanced benefit to an increased number of cats in the future, has been postponed pending a review of the climate when the Covid-19 situation is more stable.

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. Unfortunately due to the situation during the year, the working group has been unable to meet and progress new projects, but plan to recommence work as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allows.

A previous £50,000 loan made by Mid Sussex and Eastbourne Branch (repayable only when the Cat Rehoming Centre is sold) was very kindly converted by resolution of their branch's trustees into a non-repayable gift.

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.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had no material impact on the reserves policy.

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.

Plans for further investments were put on hold following uncertainty in the financial markets due to the Covid-19 pandemic, while the long-term investments were initially hit considerably, they are now showing signs of recovery.

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 5/8/21 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 ...5/8/21... 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 2020 which are set out on pages 8 to 21.

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.

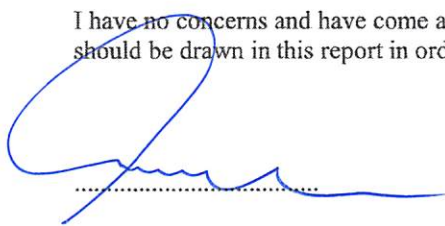
Independent examiner's statement

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: 09/08/2021

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

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	176,192	31,095	207,287
Charitable activities		-	8,140	8,140
Other trading activities	3	46,879	4,625	51,504
Investment income	4	708	366	1,074
Other income		132	7,785	7,917
Total income		223,911	52,011	275,922
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(48,674)	(7,049)	(55,723)
Charitable activities	7	(1,663)	(153,249)	(154,912)
Total expenditure		(50,337)	(160,298)	(210,635)
Net income/(expenditure)		173,574	(108,287)	65,287
Gross transfers between funds		(92,277)	92,277	-
Other recognised gains and losses				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(8,637)	-	(8,637)
Net movement in funds		72,660	(16,010)	56,650
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		750,542	131,124	881,666
Total funds carried forward	21	823,202	115,114	938,316
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:				
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		192,024	73,557	265,581
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(43,532)	(7,908)	(51,440)
Charitable activities	7	(1,400)	(167,838)	(169,238)
Other expenditure	8	(5,000)	-	(5,000)
Total expenditure		(49,932)	(175,746)	(225,678)
Net income/(expenditure)		142,092	(102,189)	39,903
Gross transfers between funds		(77,522)	77,522	-

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

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £
Other recognised gains and losses				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(1,093)	-	(1,093)
Net movement in funds		63,477	(24,667)	38,810
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		687,065	155,791	842,856
Total funds carried forward	21	750,542	131,124	881,666

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

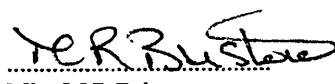
The funds breakdown for 2019 is shown in note 21.

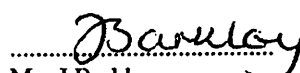
**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings
Branch**

**(Registration number: 206314)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	235,373	242,010
Investments	15	<u>12,983</u>	<u>21,620</u>
		<u>248,356</u>	<u>263,630</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	831	482
Debtors	17	6,358	4,831
Cash at bank and in hand	18	<u>688,181</u>	<u>667,718</u>
		695,370	673,031
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>(5,410)</u>	<u>(4,995)</u>
Net current assets		<u>689,960</u>	<u>668,036</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		938,316	931,666
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
Net assets		<u>938,316</u>	<u>881,666</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		115,114	131,124
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>823,202</u>	<u>750,542</u>
Total funds	21	<u>938,316</u>	<u>881,666</u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 21 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5/8/21... 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 2020

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.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

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.

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 2020

Raising funds

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

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.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

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:

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

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 2020 .

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).

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.

**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 2020

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	52,302	27,950	80,252	27,568
Legacies	112,254	500	112,754	109,517
Gift aid reclaimed	302	2,645	2,947	2,422
Grants, including capital grants;				
Government grants	11,334	-	11,334	-
	<u>176,192</u>	<u>31,095</u>	<u>207,287</u>	<u>139,507</u>

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Trading income;				
Shop income from sale of donated goods and services	20,985	2,469	23,454	51,918
Events income;				
Other events income	-	2,156	2,156	11,284
Local fundraising and street collection income	25,173	-	25,173	26,629
Sponsorship income	393	-	393	513
Membership subscriptions	328	-	328	32
	<u>46,879</u>	<u>4,625</u>	<u>51,504</u>	<u>90,376</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from dividends; Dividends receivable from other listed investments	708	-	708	1,409
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	-	366	366	848
	<u>708</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>1,074</u>	<u>2,257</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from other branches	-	5,085	5,085	16,112
Insurance Commission Received	132	-	132	25
Rental income	-	2,700	2,700	2,675
	<u>132</u>	<u>7,785</u>	<u>7,917</u>	<u>18,812</u>

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations	-	177	177	653
Other direct costs of generating voluntary income	11,378	-	11,378	-
	<u>11,378</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>11,555</u>	<u>653</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 2020

b) Costs of trading activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Costs of goods sold		(169)	5,801	5,632	7,355
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		-	613	613	628
Other direct costs of activities for generating funds		22,172	-	22,172	21,883
		<u>22,003</u>	<u>6,414</u>	<u>28,417</u>	<u>29,866</u>

c) Investment management costs

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Finance charges;					
Bank charges		65	458	523	385
		<u>65</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>523</u>	<u>385</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted General £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		-	6,685	6,685	6,685
Staff costs		-	121,597	121,597	123,236
Allocated support costs		213	24,967	25,180	37,917
Governance costs		1,450	-	1,450	1,400
		<u>1,663</u>	<u>153,249</u>	<u>154,912</u>	<u>169,238</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8 Other expenditure

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Exceptional Rental Expense	-	5,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,450	1,450	1,400
	<u>1,450</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>1,400</u>

10 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2020 £	2019 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	7,298	7,313
Finance charges payable	<u>523</u>	<u>385</u>

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	136,825	143,033
Other staff costs	<u>-</u>	<u>739</u>
	<u>136,825</u>	<u>143,772</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 2020

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2020	2019
	£	£
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,450</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 £
Cost			
At 1 January 2020	377,394	12,163	389,557
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>661</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>377,394</u>	<u>12,824</u>	<u>390,218</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2020	138,403	9,144	147,547
Charge for the year	<u>6,685</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>7,298</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>145,088</u>	<u>9,757</u>	<u>154,845</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2020	<u>232,306</u>	<u>3,067</u>	<u>235,373</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>238,991</u>	<u>3,019</u>	<u>242,010</u>

15 Fixed asset investments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other investments	<u>12,983</u>	<u>21,620</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 2020

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2020	21,620	21,620
Revaluation	<u>(8,637)</u>	<u>(8,637)</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>12,983</u>	<u>12,983</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2020	<u>12,983</u>	<u>12,983</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>21,620</u>	<u>21,620</u>

16 Stock

	2020 £	2019 £
Stocks	<u>831</u>	<u>482</u>

17 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	5,311	3,138
VAT recoverable	<u>1,047</u>	<u>1,693</u>
	<u>6,358</u>	<u>4,831</u>

18 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash at bank	<u>688,181</u>	<u>667,718</u>

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	3,235	4,995
Other taxation and social security	2,104	-
Pension scheme creditor	<u>71</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,410</u>	<u>4,995</u>

**Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals - Sussex East and Hastings
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

20 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Other loans	-	50,000

21 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	750,542	223,712	(50,138)	(92,277)	(8,637)
Restricted funds	<u>131,124</u>	<u>52,266</u>	<u>(160,553)</u>	<u>92,277</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>881,666</u>	<u>275,978</u>	<u>(210,691)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,637)</u>

**Balance at 31
December
2020
£**

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted general funds	823,202
Restricted funds	<u>115,114</u>
Total funds	<u>938,316</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 2020

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	687,065	191,323	(49,231)	(77,522)	(1,093)
Restricted funds	<u>155,791</u>	<u>73,840</u>	<u>(176,029)</u>	<u>77,522</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>842,856</u>	<u>265,163</u>	<u>(225,260)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,093)</u>
					Balance at 31 December 2019 £

Unrestricted funds	
Unrestricted general funds	750,542
Restricted funds	<u>131,124</u>
Total funds	<u>881,666</u>

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	235,373	235,373
Fixed asset investments	12,983	-	12,983
Current assets	529,612	165,758	695,370
Current liabilities	<u>(1,451)</u>	<u>(3,959)</u>	<u>(5,410)</u>
Total net assets	<u>541,144</u>	<u>397,172</u>	<u>938,316</u>

23 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2020 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>667,718</u>	<u>20,463</u>	<u>688,181</u>
Net debt	<u>667,718</u>	<u>20,463</u>	<u>688,181</u>

Our Vision

Our vision is to one day live in a world where all animals
are respected and treated with compassion.
And that is what we work towards every day.



Sussex East & Hastings Branch
Registered Charity No. 206314