



Annual Report 2016/2017



Mesolithic Hunter sculptures in Bordon Inclosure

Registered Charity Number: 1160737

Deadwater Valley Trust
Annual Report and Accounts
For the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017



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The Deadwater Valley Trust
is mainly funded, supported and works in partnership
with
Whitehill Town Council



They are also kindly supported by the
Whitehill and Bordon Re-generation Team
at
East Hampshire District Council



Deadwater Valley Trust

Registered Charity Number: 1160737

Charity's Principal Address:

The Phoenix Centre, Station Road, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 0LR

Trustees and Committee Members

| <i>Trustee</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Period</i> | <i>Appointment</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs N Dobson | Chair | Throughout | DVT Conservation Volunteers |
| 2. Dr W Wain | Vice-Chair | Throughout | Walldown Preservation Society |
| 3. Mr R Betteley | Treasurer | Throughout | Local Resident |
| 4. Mr G Dawkins | Secretary | June 2016 – Mar 2017 | Local Resident |
| 5. Mr J Smith | | Throughout | Friends of the Deadwater |
| 6. Dr C Wain | | Throughout | Woolmer Forest Heritage Society |
| 7. Mrs M Aldridge | | Throughout | Local Resident |
| 8. Rev D Clarke | | Throughout | Co-opted |
| 9. Cllr V Clarke | | Throughout | Co-opted |
| 10. Mr B Collinson | | Feb – Mar 2017 | Co-opted |
| 11. Cllr D Cooper | | Throughout | Whitehill Town Council |
| 12. Cllr T Muldoon | | Throughout | Whitehill Town Council |
| 13. Cllr A Carew | | Throughout | Hampshire County Council |
| 14. Vacant | | Throughout | East Hampshire District Council |

Notes: The EHDC position remains vacant.

Jamie Cummins (DVT Senior Ranger) acted as Honorary Secretary from 1st April until 30th June 2016 then Grant Dawkins took role over.

Appointment of Trustees

The policy and general management of the affairs of the Charity shall be directed by a management committee, which shall comprise of eight representative members, two elected members and not more than two co-opted members.

Two representative members shall be appointed by the following local authority:
Whitehill Town Council (WTC)

One representative member shall be appointed by each of the following local authorities:
East Hampshire District Council (EHDC)
Hampshire County Council (HCC)

One representative member shall be appointed by each of the following local organisations:
Deadwater Valley Trust Conservation Volunteers (DVTCV)
Friends of the Deadwater (FoD)
Walldown Preservation Society (WPS)
Woolmer Forest Heritage Society (WFHS)

Bankers

The bankers of the Trust are Lloyds Bank PLC.

Reserve Policy

The Trustees attempt to keep 13 weeks expenditure in reserve, as recommended. The money is held in a separate Charity Bank account where it is easily realisable.

Independent Examiner

Mr. Paul Charman

Chair's Introduction

This report refers to the financial year from the 1st April 2016 to the 31st March 2017. The Trust was established in 1989 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission Number 1160737.

The Trust office continues to be in the Phoenix Centre and this is the second year of the financial support from Whitehill Town Council funded by a five year Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Local Nature Reserve and the first year of the SLA for Bordon Inclosure. Regular reports are sent to Whitehill Town Council updating them on the work covered in both the Nature Reserve and Bordon Inclosure. We would like to thank the Town Council for their continued financial support to look after these valuable areas of countryside.

Our ranger team still consists of Jamie Cummins (Senior Ranger), Terry Read (Ranger), Brendan Finnegan (Ranger), Freya Prince (Bordon Inclosure Ranger) and Jenny Clarke (Community Ranger). This team is often larger due to the many very active volunteers, work experience students from both Hollywater school and Merrist Wood and Trustees. We have a really committed group of volunteers which has grown over the year and is willing to work hard with all tasks thrown at them in all weather conditions which we really appreciate and could not do without.

On the whole a very encouraging year for the Trust with lots of new contacts made and targets met and projects completed. The only negative issue is the continuing vandalism in the Nature Reserve and Bordon Inclosure. The Trust along with the Town Council and the Local Police are continually trying to find new strategies to combat this.

Jamie has managed the team and worked alongside Terry, Brendan and Freya in the physical management of the woods, river, pond and heathlands. They have also carried out surveys, organised events, and provided advice on a wide range of environmental subjects.

Jenny, with the help of Freya and the rest of the team, has taken 22 (last year 13) classes of school children out on activities, which means 980 children and 220 Adults have learnt about, enjoyed and hopefully will go on to respect our special countryside areas. She has also organised events, both large and small which have meant over 2000 members of the local community have attended and many more have visited due to hearing about our areas by word of mouth and the great publicity from both posters, flyers and social media.

All the local primary schools have attended activities or had visits from the Ranger Team and the only School which hasn't become activity involved is Mill Chase so maybe this could be a goal for the next year to encourage interest from them.

Freya has spent her first year as Ranger for Bordon Inclosure continuing to manage the site and encourage the public to visit and get involved in her weekend work parties. Bordon Inclosure is a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and is an essential adjunct to the occupation of new houses in Quebec Park and the Louisburg Development.

Finally I would like to thank the Trustees, especially Bob Betteley (Treasurer) and Grant Dawkins (Secretary) who meet weekly with me and Jamie; the Friends of the Deadwater, the volunteers and the Rangers for all their support during the past year and look forward to all that the next years brings.

Nora M Dobson, Chair

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1. The Trust

The Deadwater Valley Trust is an organisation that aims to consolidate and constantly improve the work first carried out in the mid 1980's by the River Deadwater Environmental Project, which was supported by the Hampshire County Council Community Service.

The Trust exists to manage the Deadwater Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Bordon Inclosure Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) for the conservation of the different habitats and recreation.

From 1st January 2016 the Trust also took on management of the new Bordon Inclosure SANG until 31st March 2020 after signing a separate SLA with Whitehill Town Council, who have taken on a long-term lease from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MoD).

The Trust has a five year Business Plan aligned to the LNR Management Plan which has been presented and accepted by WTC.

The Trust was originally set up as a supporting partnership between Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council and Whitehill Town Council. All of these Councils are represented on the Board of Trustees. The Deadwater Valley Local Nature Reserve is either owned or leased by Whitehill Town Council who are the main funder.

2. Objectives of The Trust

- 2.1 To preserve, enhance, conserve, restore and promote the natural and man-made features of the Deadwater Valley LNR and Bordon Inclosure SANG and neighbourhood areas relevant to their ecology, geology, archaeology and history.
- 2.2 To promote and develop interest, research, appreciation and knowledge of these areas for the education and benefit of the public.

3. Reasons for Conserving the Deadwater Valley LNR and Bordon Inclosure SANG

- 3.1 They are one of the few green spaces with public access (in normal circumstances) within and close to the built environment of Whitehill & Bordon, and were once part of the Royal Forest of Woolmer.
- 3.2 They are one of the few green spaces not owned by the Ministry of Defence, so continuous access (in normal circumstances) is available.
- 3.3 The path system constructed in the early 1980's needs continuous management.
- 3.4 To maintain the important biodiversity of the area, which includes the River Deadwater, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, ponds, woodland (mixed, broadleaf & alder carr), ancient meadow, grassland, scrub and two areas of lowland heathland.
- 3.5 To maintain and enhance the newly designated Bordon Inclosure SANG for the benefit of local residents of Whitehill & Bordon as a buffer zone away from the surrounding European designated sites of Broxhead Common and Kingsley Common.

4. Public Benefit

The charity trustees understand the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and in accordance with the objectives of the organisation recognise that the charity operates primarily to provide public benefit in the advancement of the Local Nature Reserve and Bordon Inclosure SANG and also through the advancement of education and community development. To facilitate this work the charity maintains the ground structure of these areas in addition to providing conservation related activities within the wider community.

5. Management of Deadwater Valley LNR

The Service Level Agreement with Whitehill Town Council (WTC) to manage the LNR for five years from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2020 has now completed the second year. A second year report, written by Jamie Cummins, was submitted to WTC. Jamie updated the LNR Management Plan (2017-2022) and submitted to WTC.

Unfortunately this year we again encountered vandalism to the infrastructure of the Reserve, especially to barriers and entrances, which meant a lot of time and resources was spent dealing with repairs rather than the requirements of the Management Plan. This had a knock on effect for the whole year and I would like to thank all the rangers and volunteers for their sterling efforts in dealing with these problems.

5.1 The Deadwater Valley

Hazardous tree surveys were conducted throughout the Reserve in 2016/2017, especially concentrating on the main woodland paths & residents boundaries. Dead and dangerous trees were felled and cleared where necessary. Larger trees were felled on occasion by arboriculture contractors. Felled material is used on the Reserve, left on site as habitat piles or where safe to do so left as standing dead wood.

The main paths, entrances, car park and Reserve edges received regular cutting back of invading vegetation. All Reserve entrances received running repairs to keep in good order, the three oak bridges received some maintenance as did the Duck Race bridge.

HCC Highways kindly cut back overhanging vegetation from along Conde Way which saved the rangers doing it!

Byelaws and other information signs were replaced and the notice boards, installed in 2013 at several entrances, also received maintenance. The rangers continue to service the three litter bins on the LNR installed in 2014.

Five new 'D' signs were added to entrances at Waterman Close, Monument Chase, opposite Budds Lane, Alexandra Park/Bordon Inclosure boundary and by Alexandra Park allotments, all part funded by EHDC Cllr Wherrell.

Other improvements, also funded by EHDC, as part of the wider Whitehill & Bordon 'Green Loop' project included four new crossings over ditches alongside river, five new gates at entrances off Waterman Close, Monument Chase, Forest Road and either side of Forest Lodge track plus some path re-surfacing below Waterman Close.

We also installed a bench in the 'event space' below Knox's dedicated to Jenny Sheldrake.

Time was also spent meeting and dealing with various residents over boundary issues and overhanging trees and the powerline and pole at Meadow View also caught fire!

5.2 The Woodlands

Due to some winter storms a small number of fallen or hazardous trees had to be felled or cleared from footpaths throughout the Reserve. The footpaths previously re-routed around really wet areas to enable better access continue to do well.

We laid 4T of scalping at the entrance to the woods from the Conde Way car park and also replaced the old chestnut paling fence above Stella Meadow with a new stock fence with the material kindly given by WTC from Bordon Inclosure boundary at Lindford Road.

5.2.1 Secondary Riverside Woodland

Bamboo was once again cut in various areas including; below car park, east of Knox's Pond and pond outlet and also near the river with help from various volunteer groups. This means each year we can cut the re-growth and extend into a new area to be cleared with the cut bamboo added to dead hedges. Herbicide treatment of the bamboo is now necessary and options are being investigated. The primrose glade was not trimmed back this year.

5.2.2 Mixed Woodland

Rhododendron was again cleared and either burnt on-site or added to dead-hedges with lots of help from local companies on team-building days out (see Section 11.2) Areas included; eastern side heavily cleared and also behind western side of Main Avenue and re-growth cut in Event Space area. Four small silver birches were also felled in this area for Woodland Fair access.

Rhododendron stumps were pulled up where possible with the larger stumps requiring pesticide treatment in future.

Bracken, rhododendron and scrub re-growth was again cleared from the Butterfly Glade and added into the dead hedges as were three large and two smaller silver birches. Brambles and scrub was cleared and burnt within Stella Meadow and a dead-hedge was installed next to 'event barrier'.

Four large sweet chestnuts were felled and processed into fencing below Woodlea school and holly was thinned to gain vehicular access.

The large beech in the clearing to the west of Forest Lodge track had further reduction in over-reaching crown height by arborist contractor using a tracked cherry-picker. The large 'tennis court' beech tree near Forest Lodge did not need any work this year following work in 2013. The chain link fence installed around the bottom to stop entry and fires in the hollowed truck is working well. Re-routing of the path away from this tree with new steps up slope has yet to be done.

5.2.3 Mature and Semi-mature stands of Scots Pine

Dangerous and part fallen trees were felled and left on site as habitat piles. Some shorter pine stumps were left standing to create a habitat for insects. Some tall thin pines were removed for use in pathwork construction above Woodlea school. Holly bushes were trimmed back to maintain clear widths to keep paths open and safe.

5.2.4 Common Alder and Goat Willow Carr

Clearance of some wind-blown trees was performed, three large common alder stools were felled and processed below Waterman Close for revetment work plus the taller hazel and willow cut back below power-lines off Conde Way.

The two dead-hedges were replenished and the netting on the bank near duck race bridge was pegged in and three tall alders were cut and laid alongside residents wall.

5.3 Polytrichum Heath

Scrub and encroaching bracken and brambles were cleared from within the area and also on the eastern and western edges. Rhoddie re-growth was also cut. The path from Knox's pond to this area was again not cleared to discourage footfall.

5.4 Alexandra Park

Saplings and a large willow were cleared from southern end of heath and cut and burnt invading scrub from northern end. Sycamore re-growth was cut from western woods and sycamore and holly thinned from alongside top western path and also on cross-path next to Bordon Inclosure and all used to line footpath into Inclosure.

Bracken was also bruised over three sessions under powerlines between LNR & SANG. Cherry Laurel was cleared behind the Rifle Wall and added to the dead-hedge and a large Scots pine was felled.

Unfortunately arson again happened during the Easter holidays for the third consecutive year resulting in approximately 30m² of the northern heath burnt with sadly dead common lizards & slow worms recovered.

5.5 Jubilee Park

Overhanging willows were cut alongside amenity grassland area and four large common alders cleared by contractors overhanging Rivermede and Waterside Close properties. We also felled a large alder next to BMX track and clear up an illegally cut oak tree which had fallen across the river.

We removed the tree guard around the 'Jubilee Oak' which had failed to grow three times!

5.6 The River Deadwater

The river still floods for brief periods with the heavy rain washing up a litter and debris with re-routed paths away, to reduce erosion and silt entering river, continue to work well. The three oak bridges replaced in 2010 received some maintenance.

Revetment work was carried out on two sections below Waterman Close where the bank is badly eroding again including bamboo in the construction.

Clearances took place near Jubilee Park especially around 'Rat Island' and a wind-blown oak tree cleared from over into Weyford school grounds.

Riversearch surveys were again performed, lead by Brendan Finnegan (see section 7.0) and fortunately no evidence of Himalayan balsam was found following its first appearance in summer 2014 although it is along the River Wey in the Bordon Inclosure.

5.7 Knox's Pond

The pond was cleared of broken branches and debris throughout the year, with weed, smaller marginal plants and saplings cleared as necessary especially at 'dipping' areas. Several holly trees were cleared along track from car park to allow better vehicular access to pond and also the logs used for school visits were pegged into place.

Bamboo was again cut below and next to outflow area and the low barrier replaced.

The boardwalk received minor repairs but one of the dipping platform had to be completely removed following vandalism.

5.8 The Walldown Scheduled Ancient Monument

A large amount of gorse & scrub clearance was performed with arising burnt on metal sheets on site. Areas included: main bowl, inner eastern and north-eastern bank & ditch.

A large rotten Scots pine felled above Alpine Road steps and small pines removed along footpath above school.

The perimeter fencing was completed, the southern stile and low fence above school repaired, damaged signs replaced and footpath down to Forest Road improved.

5.9 The Ancient Meadow

The meadow was once again successfully grazed with cattle from the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust using five steers (British White x Aberdeen Angus) between 21st November 2016 and 2nd February 2017.

Willow and birch scrub was cleared from the north-western area both within and outside the meadow to create a view point for habitat interpretation board. A large Lawson cypress fallen into meadow from Forest Lodge track was cleared & stacked as deadwood habitat.

The boundary and diagonal fences received running repairs as did the northern stile. The enclosure around the dedication tree was re-sited and repaired.

5.10 Waste Management and Anti-Social Behaviour

General litter left by people within the Reserve remains an issue although the three litter bins installed at three different entrances are well used but waste management continues to take up a disproportionate amount of Ranger time.

Fly-tipping of larger items is a particular problem such as: motor scooter in Knox's pond; burnt out motorbike in Grafton woods; large amount of animal bones at Conde Way; 6 bags of garden waste; 4 bikes; 1 pram; 3 trolleys; 400+ No² canisters; 250 Messenger papers; double mattress; armchair; electric garden machinery; bike wheels; deckchair; table and 3 fire extinguishers.

The Trust renewed its Trade Waste permit to use the truck at the Hampshire Waste Recycling Centre on Station Road, which was used three times.

Abandoned trolleys are still found and dealt with asap and the rangers recycle as much material as possible with aluminium cans taken to Hollywater School to help raise money.

Anti-social issues included one major heathland fires in Alexandra Park on 27th March with 30m² of northern area burnt. (This follows on from 60% of the northern area burnt during Easter 2015 and 25% of the southern area burnt during Easter 2014).

Other major incidents were: damage to Knox's dipping platform; 3 entrances damaged by quad bikes; barrier broken; illegally cut down oak tree and graffiti on noticeboards.

The shed was broken into once with only fuel can taken but damage to both doors.

Motorbikes & quad bikes are still a major on-going issue and despite installing numerous barriers, chicanes and notices, plus informing police and ringing 101, it remains a problem. We also complete the quarterly on-line Longmoor Police survey.

All the damage to Reserve infrastructure is repaired asap and reported to the police via 101 and/or e-mail with notices constantly put up about these issues.

6.0 Management of Bordon Inclosure SANG

The whole SANG has been sub-divided into nine different compartments (A to I) within which are different habitats, structures and physical features and a separate Management Plan exists for the area. The Trust are into their second year of management of the site (which started on 1st January 2016) and below is a list of the work completed by DVT staff and volunteers.

DVT staff and Trustees have worked with WTC, EHDC, HCC and their contractors throughout the capital works within the SANG prior to taking on management on behalf of WTC.

Unfortunately there was a lot of vandalism especially to the new infrastructure and also a lot of anti-social behaviour which took up a massive amount of ranger and volunteer time.

Freya, Jamie and the other rangers perform weekly patrols of the whole site and infrastructure, logging any problems, damage and species seen which forms part of the quarterly reports to WTC as well as progress with regard to Management Plan and SLA.

Freya also started a weekend work party in September 2016, on the first Saturday of each month, averaging 6 volunteers both new and existing.

6.1 Woodland Compartments

All compartments had vegetation cleared back from path edges, overhanging trees cut and planting tubes replaced and re-newed. Litter picking and fixed point photography was performed regularly.

Compartment A

- Bracken bruised and cut
- Lined path from LNR
- Holly thinned
- Cut rhododendron re-growth
- Cleared around Trenchard Park gate entrance
- Installed of six bird, six bat and six bug boxes with Bentley Scouts

Compartment B

- Bracken bruised and cut
- Sycamore and holly thinned
- Removed litter from pond

Compartment C

- Pulled Himalayan balsam
- Cut rhododendron re-growth

Compartment D

- Pulled Himalayan balsam
- Contractor brought a mobile milling machine to plank up a fallen oak
- Planted 400 Woodland Trust native wet woodland mix saplings
- Planted willow whips alongside long boardwalk (harvested from LNR)
- Removed stumps along 'desire path'

Compartment E

- Planted 400 Woodland Trust native wet woodland mix saplings
- Cut rhododendron re-growth

Compartment F

- No major work performed

Compartment G

Built beetle log pile
Thinned sycamore and holly

Compartment H

Four large oaks removed alongside Lindford Farm Cottage by contractor

Compartment I

Thinned sycamore and holly
Coppiced hazel next to old boardwalk

Other Work Included:

- a. Regular meetings with WTC, HCC and Avon Construction especially following Common Land decision and removal of Lindford Road fencing
- b. Repairs of interpretation boards, noticeboards, waymarkers, boardwalk, gates, benches, leaflet holders and artwork
- c. Installed three dog poo-bag dispensers
- d. Signage added to all entrances

6.2 Community Work

See listings in Section 7.0 but also included:

- a. Volunteer taster event at The Phoenix Centre
- b. 'Ribbon Cutting' opening event
- c. Pulling Himalayan balsam over in Lindford
- d. 'Enjoying Bordon Inclosure' walk leaflet designed

6.3 Species Recorded

The following species were recorded:

Mammals – Roe and Muntjac deer, badger fox, rabbit, brown rat, common and soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton & noctule bats.

Birds – Buzzard, sparrowhawk, tawny owl, great-spotted and green woodpecker, mallard, heron, little egret, grey wagtail, firecrest, nuthatch, treecreeper, tits and thrushes.

Reptiles – Slow worm and common lizard.

Butterflies – Comma, green-veined white, large white, meadow brown, orange tip, peacock, red admiral, ringlet and speckled wood.

Odonata – Beautiful and Banded Demoiselle, Large red damselfly, brown hawker and emperor dragonflies.

Other insects – Ashy mining bee

Flowers – Ladies smock, wood sorrel, greater stitchwort, marsh marigold, pink purslane, red campion, enchanters nightshade and primrose.

Fungi – Hare's foot inkcap, deceiver and honey fungus.

7.0 Bordon Inclosure Community Integration (BICI) Project & Community Ranger

The second year of this project, headed by Jenny Clarke as Community Ranger, which started June 2014 for an initial 12 months, thankfully continued with contract made permanent.

The main aims of the project, to help integrate military and civilian people & families within the town especially using Bordon Inclosure have continued by organising and leading free (but occasionally chargeable), fun outdoor activities and events.

Larger events have included (with approx. numbers attending in ()'s):

Den Building (110); Woodland Treat (80); Walk, Make & Bake (60); Easter Fun (150); Drum for Life (20); Bugs, Butterflies & Bubbles (80); Mud, Muck & Madness (20); Kites & Flags (40); Photo Trail (20); Storytelling & Crafts (60); Woodland Animals (80); Bat Walks (70); Woodland Fair (250+); Bushcraft Day (10); Sketching in Woods (20); Halloween (350!); Photography Exhibition (60); Tree Dressing (30); Xmas Wreath Making (25); Night Sky with SDNPA (45); Winter Tree Walk (30). In all an incredible total of over 2000 people attending!

Jenny's monthly Junior Rangers club, now expanded to include monthly sessions at St. Matthews school in Blackmoor, still well attended with a healthy waiting list, as well as the now twice monthly Tots Ramble. She continued to raise awareness of the Trust through Facebook, website, press releases, various advertising and becoming well known in the town, schools and wider community.

Jenny also received a Whitehill & Bordon Community Award which was greatly deserved and started to work with Naomi Metclafe from the WBRC on Hogmoor Inclosure and worked closely with Liz Panton, from Headley Community Centre, for their 'Welcome Back the Wildlife' project which all the rangers and some volunteers helped with.

8.0 Conservation

The breeding bird survey was unfortunately not done this year due to lack of staff or volunteer resources. Despite this notable bird species recorded on the Reserve included; Cuckoo, mandarin duck, bullfinch, buzzard, chiffchaff, firecrest, marsh tit, nuthatch, treecreeper, grey wagtail and kingfisher. Once again moorhen and mallards both had multiple broods on Knox's Pond islands (see Appendix.A for full bird survey list by Mike Lawn).

Reptile surveys were carried out in the Ancient Meadow & Alexandra Park with more refugia added or replaced. Grass snake and slow worm (male, female & juveniles) were seen at both sites in good numbers but common lizard in low numbers. Grass snakes were also seen swimming on Knox's pond and frog spawn was seen at Knox's, Rifle Wall & Amphibian ponds.

Mammals included breeding roe deer, fox and badger. Small mammals of common shrew, field vole and wood mouse were also recorded under felts in Ancient Meadow.

A bat walk in the LNR on 2nd September, lead by Jamie, with 35 members of the public, recorded 3 species (common & soprano pipistrelle and noctule) with around 20 passes.

A bat walk in the SANG on 9th September, again lead by Jamie, with 34 public, recorded 4 species (common & soprano pipistrelle, noctule and Daubenton) with over 30 passes.

Unfortunately there was no moth trapping at the Haywain garden, but Mike Lawn's continuing beetle survey added a couple new species to the 555 species list.

Silver-washed fritillary butterflies were again recorded below Knox's pond (30th June) and other species included brimstone, comma, gatekeeper, green hairstreak, green-veined white, holly blue, large white, large skipper, meadow brown, peacock, orange tip, red admiral, ringlet, small tortoiseshell and speckled wood.

Wasp spiders were again found at Ancient Meadow but not at Walldown again this year and a downy emerald dragonfly at Knox's.

We also built six vertical beetle log piles throughout LNR & SANG and added stag beetle larva.

Nine (up from four) pond dipping sessions with local infant & junior schools on Knox's Pond recorded a number of pond species including; palmate and smooth newts (adults and elft's), tadpoles, dragonfly, damselfly, stonefly and mayfly larva, lesser and greater waterboatmen, leeches, whirligig beetles, freshwater shrimp, pond skaters and red worms.

Brendan Finnegan continued 'Riverfly' surveys on the River Deadwater, with help from other rangers and volunteers, at five different locations along the river which revealed five out of the eight indicator species including freshwater shrimp, caddisfly, mayfly & stonefly larva plus a near zero phosphate level which indicates a healthy river despite the name! Three Brown trout were also seen in the river during the bat walk on 2nd September.

Brendan and volunteer Phill Wing have also had extra survey training with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) again looking at freshwater invertebrates which involved adding 'traps' and also a 'tea bag monitoring' system into the river and we await analysis from SWT.

Two river studies with Woodlea Junior school in the river below Branson Road car park revealed brook lamprey, stone loach, bullhead, minnow; cased caddis, damselfly, stonefly, mayfly and beetle larva; freshwater shrimp, snail & mollusc; leech and signal crayfish.

We were also visited by a Southampton company with a high-spec infra-red camera to Bordon Inclosure one summer evening organised by Nora and saw bats, deer, owl & rats!

Ash dieback tree surveys were again performed across the whole Reserve and thankfully none was found again.

9.0 Administration

9.1 Staffing

Jamie Cummins completed his sixth year with the Trust and third as Senior Ranger. Brendan Finnegan and Terry Read, who both started on 1st October 2013, continue to be employed, making up 40 hours, and have now been made permanent staff.

Jenny Clarke, who started on 1st June 2014 as Community Wildlife Ranger for the Bordon Inclosure Community Integration (BICI) project, is now permanent but only 20 hours/week.

Freya Prince, who started on 4th January 2016, continues as Countryside Ranger for the Bordon Inclosure SANG. This four and half year, full-time project will see Freya take on responsibility for the Inclosure, help Jenny in her Community Ranger duties and Jamie, Brendan & Terry with practical management in the LNR.

The rangers are also well supported by two groups of reliable volunteers; Deadwater volunteers on Mondays and Elizabeth Dibben Centre on Thursday afternoons with new volunteers joining both groups. Bob Betteley ensured that the Trust continued to maintain a sound financial basis while assisting in a variety of managerial and administrative duties.

9.2 Facilities

The staff continue to use The Phoenix Centre as their base with a main office, a smaller room turned into a workshop plus tool shed and wood yard outside, both of which were extensively re-organised and still benefit from a very good working relationship with the Phoenix staff.

9.3 Equipment and Training

The Trust now has two vehicle's; a Ford Ranger pickup, purchased in Feb 2012, and since May 2016 a Citroen Berlingo van both of which are invaluable in transporting staff, volunteers, tools and materials. Terry also spent time repairing the trailer.

The truck passing its MoT with £500 of work required plus annual service plus needed replacement CV joint, steering rod & tyres. The Berlingo van passed its MoT but required diesel performance issues resolving.

New tools included: Stihl multi-tool with hedge cutter and pole saw attachments, backpack leaf blower, cordless drill & impact driver, belt and orbital sanders, chisel set,
New equipment included: Six gazebo banners, ladder, laptop and 2 laptop cooling stands.

The rangers and volunteers attended the following training courses and seminars this year: Basic Hazardous Tree Survey course (BF & TR); Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults course (All rangers plus ND, BB, WW & GD); Riverfly Survey training (BF & PW funded by SWT); IBM Marketing Course (JeC); Management Courses (JaC & ND); Community Development Course (JeC); Volunteer Management & Retention course (JaC & FP); JeC & FP had outdoor classroom training at Butser Ancient Farm; JaC, JeC & FP attended a SDNPA learning seminar at The Sustainability Centre; JeC & FP attended a SDNPA Teachers Conference; JaC, FP, ND, GD & PW attended a bat talk at Gilbert White Field Studies Centre; All the rangers plus PW & NH received some hazardous tree training from Martin Dobson.

All the rangers plus ND & BB had a full day of guided walks at Blackwater Valley Partnership SANGs in Aldershot.

10.0 Education

Jamie & Jenny continues to co-ordinate the education roles, assisted by the other rangers, which included attending after-school clubs at Weyford Juniors and St. Matthews, as well as leading various classes on walks & activities in the LNR and SANG.

This year included: pond dipping & bug hunting, habitat/nature walks, river studies, plants & trees and den building.

Schools included: Bordon Juniors (Yr.5), St. Matthews Primary (Yr.3), Weyford Infants (Yr.R, 1 & 2), Weyford Juniors (Yr.5 & 6) and Woodlea Primary (Yr.3 & 4) but unfortunately nothing with Mill Chase Academy again this year. But several local pre-schools were visited this year.

Two Yr.11 students from Hollywater School had week long work placements with the rangers and we also had two Merrist Wood students on work placement for most of the year.

In all 22 (up from 13) classes were taken out, including over 980 children & 220 adults (up from 600 and 90 respectively for 2015/2016) plus 12 (down from 15) classes visited at schools.

Uniformed groups included: 1st Bordon Brownies, 1st Whitehill Brownies, Bentley Beavers & Scouts, Headley Beavers, Rowledge Cubs & Scouts, Blackmoor & Whitehill Scouts and also a presentation to the Alton Scouting Association and Whitehill Women's Institute.

We also had National Citizen Service helping out and fund raising for DVT during the summer.

11.0 Community

11.1 Friends of the Deadwater

Four editions of the Deadwater Dispatch were written, published and distributed by Jamie, highlighting some of the work carried out and also promoting the Trust events.

A big thank you to Liz & Noel Robinson for again organising the Christmas lunch at Frensham attended by 'Friends of Deadwater', Wednesday walkers, staff and Trustees.

The AGM in September was attended by 24 people followed by tea & cake and then Freya Prince giving an interesting talk on 'The Bordon Inclosure SANG'.

We also held a bench dedication event near Knox's pond in memory of Jenny Sheldrake.

11.2 Volunteers

The Trust is blessed with a merry and hard working band of volunteers without whom all of the practical management could not have been achieved over the past 12 months.

Monday group – 47 out of possible 47 work parties with an average of 11 (up from 9 in 2015/2016 and 7 in 2014/2015) with a high of 15 volunteers with three new faces joining.

Elizabeth Dibben Centre Thursday group – only 45 out of possible 51 work parties with an average of 5 (same as 2015/2016) with a high of 8 volunteers with one new face joining.

Other individual volunteers have also come out on odd days to help but a massive thank you again to volunteer Phillip Wing who has helped the rangers most Tuesdays and Fridays through the year especially with chainsaw, fencing and Riverfly surveys. Brendan also produce a professional looking 'Volunteering' leaflet.

We were also helped by two Merrist Wood students, Reeve Cooper and Nick Holden, who came in one-day-per-week for their work placements and a week-long work placement student from Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke. Also Richard Ford performed some ecological surveys in Alexandra Park and Bordon Inclosure.

We also had several companies performing volunteering days which included: Southern & Scottish Energy (2 days with 9 staff in total); Laleham Health & Beauty (1 day with 11 staff) and Taylor Made Financial Services (1 day with 6 staff) all cutting rhododendron along the 'Main Avenue' with the last two companies organised with Community First.

11.3 Working with Whitehill Town Council, EHDC and other Agencies

The rangers continued to work closely with Andrea Mann (Town Clerk) and Chris Norkett (Grounds Officer) and other WTC staff, advising on a variety of projects or conservation concerns around the town especially Hollybrook Park pond improvements project.

The rangers have attended various meetings, events and workshops including: bi-monthly reports for DVT Trustees, quarterly reports for WTC; HLF 'Green Heritage'; meetings with teachers and contractors; Community First; SDNPA 'Heathlands Re-united' project; HCC Countryside Service; Surrey Wildlife Trust; National Citizen Service; had stall at EHDC Community Forum; helped with EHDC 'Spring into Health' event;

Numerous Bordon Inclosure SANG meetings with representatives from DVT, WTC, EHDC, HCC, Phoenix Centre and various contractors; NGSCC meetings; Jamie lead a visit with representatives from Natural England; site meetings with Thames Water;

Regular liaison with Bruce Collinson from EHDC and then at WBRC; Funding meetings with representatives from DVT, EHDC, Phoenix Centre and WFHS; Meetings with police and PCSO's over anti-social behaviour;

Jamie has also managed phase two of the Green Loop project with contractor meetings plus project managed the Green Network Quick-win project.

11.4 Wider Community

Held BBQ in woods for DVT volunteers; had summer stalls at Queen's Birthday Picnic at Phoenix Centre, Lindford Village Fete and Town Festival at Budds Lane and Christmas stall at Forest Community Centre; Ribbon cutting event in Bordon Inclosure; presentation at 'Creating Opportunities' workshop at FCC run by Community First; worked with The Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company (WBRC) with some community events and also art project on Hogmoor Inclosure; all the rangers and some volunteers helped with Headley Community Centre 'Bring Back the Wildlife' project;

12.0 Marketing and Events

The Trust's website and Facebook pages were regularly updated by Jenny and Freya.

The ranger uniforms and sign-written ranger vehicles both help to better advertise the Trust's presence on the LNR, SANG and within the town.

The five different pull up banners and gazebo banners, designed by Brendan, are used at events and also outside the office. The aluminium noticeboards at Reserve main entrances plus smaller wooden noticeboards continue to help to promote the Trust and recruit new volunteers and the rangers also attended various community events throughout the year.

12.1 Wednesday Guided Walks

Jamie, Bill Wain and Jim Smith continued as walk leaders leading 51 wildlife walks in the local area on Wednesday, with an average attendance of 9 walkers and a high of 14 (down from 10 and 17 respectively from 2015/2016).

12.2 Historic Deadwater Events

The DVT annual events this year included Duck Race (40 people), Sponsored Walk (18 people), Woodland Fair (over 250 people), Winter Barbecue (25 people) and Christmas Dinner (28 people). We didn't have Blessing of Bower or Haywain Tea Party this year.

The Woodland Fair was the biggest yet and many thanks again to Jenny Clarke for organising it and all those that helped on the day.

12.3 Press and Publicity

Regular press releases were issued about DVT events, school activities and other community events. Ranger uniforms & sign written vehicle's also help increase publicity. Jamie & Jenny had press coverage through the year and the Facebook page and updated website, both managed by Jenny & Freya, continue to work extremely well.

13.0 Funding and Fund Raising

£40,460 was awarded from WTC for the second year of the five year Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the LNR and a further £40,000 for the first full year of Bordon Inclosure SANG SLA.

Funding raising activities: FoD Membership (£168); Duck Race (£165), Sponsored Walk (£113), Woodland Fair (£210) and Xmas Dinner raffle (£32) plus donations at various events (£51). Other smaller donations (£88), National Citizen Service donation (£233) and Pollyanne Pre-school donation (£100). Total = £1160 (up from £900 in 2015/2016).

Unfortunately no aluminium cans were traded in at a metal yard as they are now donated to Hollywater School.

Invoices for £280 from WTC for assistance with Hollybrook Pond improvement project and £227 from WBRC for Hogmoor Inclosure events were paid and £100 from Surrey Wildlife Trust for supply of alder logs for River Wey Catchment Project was due.

Successful grant applications included:

£1000 from EHDC Cllr's Pond and Waterhouse towards Forest School Training for Jenny.

£8000 from Tesco 5p Bag Grant for habitat interpretation boards within the LNR.

The HLF bid 'Our Green Heritage' lead by Bill Wain & Grant Dawkins and aided by EHDC was also progressed. Monitoring forms for £500 from Cllr Pond for volunteer and junior ranger uniforms was successfully returned to EHDC.

14.0 Eco-town Quick Win Projects

Only one out the original five Eco-town Quick Win projects for biodiversity are still current. These projects were recommended by the Policy Advisory Group for Biodiversity as requested by the Eco-town Team. The approved projects were:

- 1) Connecting Green Spaces in Whitehill & Bordon (Green Network)
- 2) Bordon Inclosure Amphibian Pond
- 3) Bordon Inclosure Boardwalk

Project 1 is on-going and managed by Jamie *and*

Project's 2 & 3 now form part of the Bordon Inclosure SANG management plan.

15.0 The Year Ahead

The continuing aim is to maintain the Deadwater Valley Local Nature Reserve and Bordon Inclosure SANG both for the benefit of the flora and fauna and as a public open space to be used for quiet enjoyment by the local residents and visitors.

Aims for 2017/2018 include; Improvements to Knox's Pond; Footpath improvements behind Savile Crescent; Find solution to bamboo infestation; Secure funding for existing & future staff; Seek grants for other projects and increase Volunteer & Friends of Deadwater numbers.

To work closely with the WTC and Whitehill & Bordon Re-Generation team in the development of the town to ensure conservation and protection of the local green spaces and biodiversity.

16.0 Acknowledgements

The Chair and Senior Ranger wish to thank all the dedicated Volunteers and Friends, new and old, who have supported the Trust during this reporting period. They extend their thanks to the officers of the Trust, The Phoenix Centre, Whitehill Town Council, East Hampshire District Council especially Bruce Collinson at the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration team and other organisations, without their help and support the success of the Trust could not be maintained.

The following table details the attendance of Trustees at meetings, this information being requested at the 1995 AGM:

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|--|-----|
| 1. | Mrs N Dobson | Chair & DVT Conservation Volunteers | 7/7 |
| 2. | Dr W Wain | Vice-Chair & Walldown Preservation Society | 7/7 |
| 3. | Mr R Betteley | Treasurer & Local Resident | 7/7 |
| 4. | Mr G Dawkins | Secretary & Local Resident | 5/6 |
| 5. | Mr J Smith | Friends of the Deadwater | 4/7 |
| 6. | Dr C Wain | Woolmer Forest Heritage Society | 7/7 |
| 7. | Mrs M Aldridge | Local Resident | 5/7 |
| 8. | Rev D Clarke | Co-opted | 2/7 |
| 9. | Cllr V Clarke | Co-opted | 1/7 |
| 10. | Mr B Collinson | Co-opted | 1/1 |
| 11. | Cllr D Cooper | Whitehill Town Council | 5/7 |
| 12. | Cllr T Muldoon | Whitehill Town Council | 0/7 |
| 13. | Cllr A Carew | Hampshire County Council | 1/7 |
| 14. | Vacant | East Hampshire District Council | 0/7 |

Deadwater Valley Trust
Registered Charity Number 1160737

Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ending 31st March 2017

| <u>Receipts</u> | <i>Combined</i> | <i>LNR</i> | <i>Bordon Inclosure</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grants | | | |
| WTC Service Level Agreement | 80,460.00 | 40,460.00 | 40,000.00 |
| EHDC Cllr Grant | 1000.00 | 1000.00 | - |
| Surrey Wildlife Trust | 400.00 | 400.00 | - |
| Tesco | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 | - |
| Donations | 656.46 | 656.46 | - |
| Subscriptions | 180.00 | 180.00 | - |
| Fund Raising | 684.61 | 684.61 | - |
| Sale of Goods | 884.24 | 884.24 | - |
| Investments Repaid | 75,000.00 | 75,000.00 | - |
| Bank Interest | 862.50 | 862.50 | - |
| | <u>166,127.81</u> | <u>126,127.81</u> | <u>40,000.00</u> |
| <u>Payments</u> | | | |
| Labour | 63,783.01 | 41,909.15 | 21,873.86 |
| Rent | 2,400.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Telephone | 375.52 | 210.26 | 165.26 |
| Insurance | 830.83 | 415.42 | 415.41 |
| Office Expenses | 1,818.27 | 1,169.01 | 649.26 |
| Photocopies | 1,339.79 | 704.55 | 635.24 |
| Travel | 824.21 | 686.96 | 137.25 |
| Site Maintenance & Tools | 8,596.72 | 4,399.54 | 4,197.18 |
| Vehicle | 11,095.03 | 1,480.29 | 9,614.74 |
| Training | 765.00 | 765.00 | - |
| Green Loop | 15,351.43 | 15,351.43 | - |
| Uniforms | 332.71 | 144.95 | 187.76 |
| Volunteers | 70.75 | 70.75 | - |
| Advertising | 1,388.40 | 560.15 | 828.25 |
| Sundries | 123.85 | 62.00 | 61.85 |
| | <u>109,095.52</u> | <u>69,129.46</u> | <u>39,966.06</u> |
| Nett Receipts/Payments | 57,032.29 | 56,998.35 | 33.94 |
| Brought F'wd from 2016 | 101,158.23 | 95,984.24 | 5,173.99 |
| | <u>158,190.52</u> | <u>152,982.59</u> | <u>5,207.93</u> |

Deadwater Valley Trust
Registered Charity Number 1160737

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31st March 2017

| | 31.03.16 | 31.03.17 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Cash Funds</u> | | |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund | 1,482.35 | 1,488.09 |
| Lloyds Bank Current Account | 101,158.23 | 158,190.52 |
| Lloyds Fixed Deposits | 75,000.00 | - |
| Petty Cash | 3.54 | 3.54 |
| | <u>177,644.12</u> | <u>159,682.15</u> |
| <u>Liabilities</u> | | |
| Income Tax, National Insurance & Pension due | <u>2,039.95</u> | <u>607.99</u> |

Signed by the Chair on behalf of all the Trustees

Mrs. Nora M Dobson

Date of Approval

7.9.17



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Deadwater Valley Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2016, set out above.

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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 (3) (a) of the 1993 Act, as amended);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

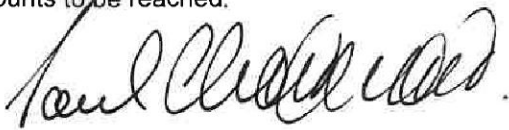
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Acthave 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.

Signed:



Date: 4/9/17

Name: Mr. Paul Charman

Address:

51 Liphook Road
Whitehill
Bordon
Hants
GU35 9DA

Appendix.A

Deadwater Valley Local Nature Reserve Bird Survey by Mike Lawn (2016)