



**BRITISH  
ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION**

Founded 1858

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2009**

*Serving ornithology for over 150 years*

**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

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Registered Charity No. 249877



**BRITISH  
ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION**

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 249877

**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Address**

PO Box 417, Peterborough PE7 3FX, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1 733 844 820. Email: bou@bou.org.uk

**BOU Staff** at 31 December 2009

<i>Senior Administrator</i>	Mr S.P. Dudley
<i>Journal &amp; Office Manager</i>	Mrs A.F. Langford

**Trustees**

The following individuals served as Trustees of the charity at the time of Council approving this annual report and accounts: T. Birkhead, R. Bradbury, A. Dawson, P. F. Donald, R.J. Fuller, J. Gill, I.R. Hartley, G. Martin, R.Y. McGowan, P.J. Oliver, T. Pizzari, H. Sitters, G. Siriwardena, C. Spottiswoode and S. Wanless.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity during the course of the year covered by this annual report and accounts: S. Bearhop, K. Hamer, W. Peach and G.R. Potts.

**Council Officers** at 31 December 2009

<i>President</i>	Dr A. Dawson
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Prof R.J. Fuller, Dr J. Gill
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	Dr H. Sitters
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Mr P.J. Oliver FCA

**Ordinary Members of Council** at 31 December 2009

Prof T. Birkhead, Dr R. Bradbury (Chairman Meetings Committee), Dr P. Donald (Chairman Grants Committee; Editor in Chief of *Ibis*), Dr I.R. Hartley (Chairman *Ibis* Committee), Rev. T.W. Gladwin (Chairman BOU / BOC Joint Publications Committee – ex officio), Prof. G. Martin, Mr R.Y. McGowan (Chairman Records Committee), Dr T. Pizzari, Dr G. Siriwardena, Dr C. Spottiswoode and Prof S. Wanless.

**BOU editorial positions** at 31 December 2009

*Ibis* - Editor in Chief            Dr P.F. Donald  
*Ibis* - Editors                      Dr R. Bowie, Dr D. Chamberlain, Dr. R. Nager, Prof. J. Wilson  
*Checklist Series* – Editor      Dr. D.A. Wells

**BOU Investment Trustees** at 31 December 2009

The following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts: N.J. Crocker, R. Price and S.J. Rumsey.

**Bankers**

The Union holds accounts with the following banks:

Natwest Bank plc, PO Box 6037, Brompton Road, London SW13 1XJ

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Douglas County Bank, 9th & Kentucky, PO Box 429, Lawrence, KS 66044, USA

**Solicitor**

The Union's solicitors are:

Laytons, Tempus Court, Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4SS

**Accountant**

The Union's accountants are:

Chappell Cole & Co, Heritage House, North Cray Road Bexley, Kent DA5 3LZ

**Auditor**

The Union's auditors are:

Alliotts, Friary Court, 13-21 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DL

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877. Its object is the promotion of the science of ornithology. Its governing document is the Rules adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 1999. Under the rules, the governing body, the Council of the Union, is responsible for the running of the Union's business, supported by its staff. Council may delegate functions to standing or ad hoc committees that report to Council. The Union's Council retains overall responsibility for matters so delegated.

The BOU has four standing committees: the *Ibis* Management Committee, the Meetings Committee, the Grants Committee and the Records Committee. In addition, it has a joint committee with the British Ornithologists' Club to oversee all non-journal publications: the BOU/BOC Joint Publications Committee.

Elected members of Council are Trustees of the charity. Members are recruited from within the ornithological and birdwatching communities. Where possible, members will have served on one or more of the BOU's standing committee prior to nomination for election to Council. Those standing for election to BOU Council as an incoming chairman of a standing committee will have

served for at least two years on the respective committee. On election, new Council members are provided with relevant Union documents to help familiarise them with current Union activities and to provide information on the duties and responsibilities of being a Trustee of the Union.

Council has reviewed the risks to which the Union is exposed and is satisfied that, as far as is practicable, it has taken appropriate steps to mitigate those risks.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **BOU Mission Statement**

The British Ornithologists' Union will promote understanding and conservation of the world's birds, advance ornithology within the scientific community and promote scientific ornithology to the wider birdwatching public. The BOU mission will be achieved by the following means:

- 1) Publishing *Ibis* as a leading international journal of ornithological science.
- 2) Publishing the BOU Checklist series, together with other publications.
- 3) Organizing a programme of meetings and conferences.
- 4) Awarding grants for ornithological research.
- 5) Encouraging liaison between those actively engaged in ornithological research.
- 6) Providing a representative body of the scientific community able to provide ornithological information and advice to government and other policy makers.
- 7) Maintaining and publishing the official list of birds recorded in Britain – The British List.

### **Council Activities**

Council met three times during the year with other business conducted by email.

At the AGM in April, Dr Jennifer Gill was elected to replace Dr Dick Potts as Vice President and Dr Tom Pizzari, Dr Gavin Siriwardena and Dr Claire Spottiswoode were elected as Ordinary Members of Council to replace Dr Stuart Bearhop, Dr Keith Hamer and Dr Will Peach.

Members of Council, as Trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **The work of the BOU**

After the restructuring over the previous two years, 2009 was a more settled year with all our focus on our ongoing activities.

### **BOU staff**

During the year, the BOU employed two full-time, home-based staff members within the BOU Office: Steve Dudley (Senior Administrator) and Mrs Angela Langford (Journal & Office Manager).

### **The BOU Office**

The work of the BOU Office is overseen by Council, the Union's standing committees and the Senior Administrator.

The BOU Office is responsible for the effective running of the BOU. Its key responsibilities are -

- to support BOU Council and its Committees and implementing much of the work arising from them, and specifically
- working with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain monthly accounts and budgets and assist in the preparation of annual accounts
- working with the *Ibis* Management Committee, manage the non-editorial aspects of the Union's journal, *Ibis*
- working with the Meetings Committee, organize BOU conferences, meetings and workshops
- working with the Joint Publications Committee, manage the publication and sales of BOU and BOC publications
- working with the Grants Committee, manage the Union's grant award scheme
- working with the Records Committee, to manage the British List and associated work areas
- working with the *Ibis* Editorial Team to oversee and manage the manuscript process and flow for the Union's journal, *Ibis*
- to service the BOU membership
- undertake routine administration (bookkeeping, reports, etc)
- to manage BOU sales
- to manage the BOU storage facility
- to handle general enquiries
- to manage press and publicity
- to manage BOU web content on its various websites including [www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk), [www.ibis.ac.uk](http://www.ibis.ac.uk), [www.bouproc.net](http://www.bouproc.net) and [www.birdgrants.org](http://www.birdgrants.org).
- to manage BOC activities contracted to the BOU including administration, membership, journal management, publication sales and contributing to the BOC website.

After the changes put in place in recent years the BOU Office was able to focus fully on all our core activities. The improved staff structure has delivered improved performance and increased overlap and knowledge between the Union's two staff members of each other's roles and duties. With the closure of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology site at Monks Wood, we lost our regular free meeting facility. We have been fortunate to find the Peterborough Eco Innovation Centre in central Peterborough, and whilst not free of charge, has transpired to be an excellent venue and one that the majority of attendees can reach by public transport.

### ***Ibis* Management Committee**

*Members* Dr I.R. Hartley (Chairman), Dr R. Bowie (Editor), Dr D. Chamberlain (Editor), Dr P.F. Donald (Editor in Chief), Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator), Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal Manager), Dr R. Nager (Editor), Dr S.J. Reynolds, Dr A. MacColl, Prof. J. Wilson (Editor).

The *Ibis* Committee acts as an advisory group to help determine the direction of the journal, and to provide support and advice in the management of the journal.

During the year, Keith Hamer retired from the Committee, and we thank him for his contribution. Now that we have been running *Ibis* for several years with an editorial team, rather than a single editor, we felt that it was time to review the Committee structure and role. Previously, there had been separate meetings of the editors and *Ibis* Committee, yet there was a great deal of overlap in the business discussed, so during 2009, the Committee was restructured to include the whole editorial team. Two meetings were held during the year, with other business conducted by email.

### *Ibis*, the BOU's international journal of avian science

Michael Brooke resigned as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) and was replaced by Paul Donald. We would like to thank Mike for all his hard work over the last few years, and welcome Paul to the role. Rauri Bowie, Dan Chamberlain and Jeremy Wilson continued in the roles as Editors in 2009, and were joined by Ruedi Nager. Angela Langford continued in her role as Journal Manager, which takes about 40% of her time as a BOU staff member. Steve Dudley continues to manage the business side of *Ibis* with Wiley-Blackwell, our publisher. *Ibis* continues to flourish under this excellent team.

This year saw several changes on the Associate Editor board. After long service, the last two remaining original Associate Editors, David Parkin and Des Thompson, have retired from their *Ibis* roles: we thank them both for their sustained contribution. Joining the board in 2009 were Lluís Brotons, Martin Collinson and Rob Simmons.

Manuscript submission rates dropped a little in 2009. In combination with a drive to publish submissions more quickly, this led to a slight shortfall in papers in the spring. The trade-off between having no backlog and having full issues is one that we will monitor closely. The impact of journals is usually compared using data compiled by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). In 2009, the impact factor ranking of *Ibis* amongst other ornithological journals was 5th out of 19 (same as last year) but showing the greatest gain of any of the journals listed. It was, however ranked 1st for the immediacy index, which is a measure of how topical and timely the published papers are.

The new *Ibis* cover design for the journal, based on a specially commissioned artwork by Robert Gillmor, was used on the 2009 volume, and was well received. 2009 was the 150<sup>th</sup> year that *Ibis* has been in publication, and it continues to be a strong international journal and a valuable asset for the BOU.

### Conference proceedings

During 2009, conference proceedings moved to being presented through the BOU's online website, BOUPROC.net, and in the future will be managed as part of each conference by the Meetings Committee.

The website includes access to all previously published online proceedings and details of offline publications. Future conference authors will have the option of submitting their papers for publication in *Ibis* or on BOUPROC.net. Each conference proceedings will have dedicated pages on BOUPROC.net linking users to all online content from their respective conferences.

### Publishers of *Ibis*

*Ibis* is published on behalf of the Union by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, from whom we continue to receive excellent service and facilities. In 2009, Wiley-Blackwell staff continued to develop the quality, production and marketing of *Ibis* and their help was greatly appreciated.

### **Meetings Committee**

*Members* Dr R.B. Bradbury (Chairman), Dr N. Burton, Dr H. Baker, Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*), Dr D. Evans, Dr K. Evans, Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal & Office Manager, *ex officio*), Mr S.A.H. Statham (BOC representative, *ex officio*), Dr M.J. Whittingham Mr H. Wright (Student representative).

The Meetings Committee is responsible for maintaining the ongoing programme of BOU conferences and meetings and to provide advice and support to the BOU Office and others responsible for organizing and running BOU events.

The Committee met once during the year and also conducted business by email.

During the year, Dr Darren Evans and Dr Karl Evans replaced Dr Ruth Cromie and Dr Richard Stillman as ordinary members of the Committee. As a new initiative to improve our reach to the student community, there is now a student representative on the committee. The first student representative is Mr Hugh Wright.

### Annual Spring Conference 2009

In April, the BOU held its annual conference, the third in the BOU series on *Lowland Farmland Birds*, at the University of Leicester. The organizing committee, led by Dr Will Peach (RSPB), consisted of Dr Nicholas Aebischer (GWCT), Mr Richard Brand-Hardy (Defra), Mr Phil Grice (Natural England), Dr Gavin Siriwardena (BTO) and Dr Juliet Vickery (RSPB). The organizing committee put together an excellent programme of talks and posters and took on the role of Associate *Ibis* Editors for the proceedings papers. In conjunction with the BOU Senior Administrator, the organizing committee also helped to secure external funding for the conference. The Union is grateful for financial assistance from the Countryside Council for Wales, Defra, Natural England, the RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Most talks were invited, though some slots were made available for offered talks. Following discussions at Council, financial assistance was made available to support the attendance of overseas speakers and students. This was well received. In all, 170 people attended. This included over 20 reduced-price students from Western Europe and three free places offered to Eastern European students, and 10 overseas speakers supported by the BOU, at a cost to the Union, including lost revenue from speakers who would normally have paid their own attendance costs, of around £10,000. It is hoped these subsidised places can be offered at future conferences. The conference was considered to be a great success and delivered a surplus in excess of £11,000. The University of Leicester continued to prove an excellent venue.

As is now policy, we aim to produce the proceedings from this conference, which will be hosted via BOUPROC.net. It is anticipated that a high proportion of papers will appear in either *Ibis* or on BOUPROC. Some papers have not been submitted, and will be represented by abstracts on BOUPROC.net.

#### Autumn Conference 2008

There was no autumn meeting in 2009.

#### Future Events

In April 2010, the BOU's annual conference will again be held at the University of Leicester. The programme has been lead-organized by Dr Rowena Langston (RSPB) and will be on *Climate Change and Birds*, following those on *Climate Change and Coastal Birds* (*Ibis* 146, Suppl. 1: 1-124) in 2002, and on *Renewable Energy and Birds* (*Ibis* 148, Suppl. 1: 1-216) in 2005. It will bring together and update aspects of both topics, but will cover a wider brief. The committee consists of Dr Rowena Langston (RSPB), Dr Richard Bradbury (RSPB), Dr Dan Chamberlain (BTO), Mr Allan Drewitt (Natural England), Dr James Pearce-Higgins (RSPB) and Dr Steve Willis (Durham University). Funding has so far been secured from RSPB, SNH, Defra and DECC. The BOU has, like last year, been able to offer special rates for student attendance.

Dr Andy Evans (RSPB) has agreed to organize a one-day meeting in autumn 2010 on the subject of *Species Recovery Programmes*.

An organizing committee, headed by Dr Helen Baker (JNCC) has been established for the spring 2011 annual conference. The theme will be on *Migratory Birds*. Other members of the conference organising team are Phil Atkinson (BTO), Jacque Clark (BTO), Karl Evans (University of Sheffield) and Peter Jones (University of Edinburgh).



BOUPROC.net – www.bouproc.net

The Committee now has responsibility in overseeing the published output from its conferences. As described above, all future proceedings will be hosted by the BOU's the new conference proceeding portal, BOUPROC.net.

#### **BOU/BOC Joint Publications Committee**

*Members* Revd. T.W. Gladwin (Chairman), Dr. J. Cooper, Mr S.P. Dudley (Publications Manager), Prof. C.M. Perrins, Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal & Office Manager), Mr D.J. Montier, Mr S.A.H. Statham, Dr D.R. Wells (Commissioning Editor BOU and BOC non-journal titles),

#### The Committee

This joint committee (JPC), which is responsible for the BOU's and British Ornithological Club's (BOC) non-journal publications, met once in 2009 with much of its business being otherwise conducted by email. The Chairman of the committee is alternately appointed by the BOC and the BOU. Nominated by the BOC in 2009, Tom Gladwin continues to chair the committee until April 2011. David Wells succeeded Bob Cheke, who decided to retire as Commissioning and Checklist Series Editor, and Jo Cooper succeeded Nigel Redman as a BOU representative on the committee. We thank Nigel for his work on the Committee over the years.

#### Publications

The checklist of *The Birds of Barbados* was published as planned. After prolonged contractual negotiations the authors of *The Checklist of the Birds of Britain and Ireland* decided to place their title with a commercial publisher. *The Asian Bird Records of Richard Meinertzhagen* by Pamela Rasmussen and Robert Prÿs-Jones is expected to form the next volume in the BOC's Occasional Publication Series. Arrangements for the publication of the sixth and seventh volumes in the series titled *Systematic Notes on Asian Birds* are currently being reviewed by the BOC.

The Committee continues to maintain contact with authors of other potential titles, and evaluate new proposals.

#### **Grants Committee**

*Members* Dr P. Donald (Chairman), Dr P. Atkinson, Dr J. Barlow, Mr J. Bird, Dr P. Dolman, Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*). Mrs A. F. Langford attends meetings.

This Committee advises Council on selection of research grant applications that the BOU should support.

The Committee met once during the year to consider the research grant applications and conducted the rest of its business by correspondence.

### Research grants

The Committee received 29 research grant applications, a welcome increase and almost double that in 2008. The Committee continues to look at further ways of increasing the number, quality and geographical coverage of applications for future years, for example through direct contacts and wider publicity.

Council accepted the Committee's recommendation that the following projects be funded:

Birds of prey of Kazakh upland, Anna Barashkova (Russia), £1000.00.

Phylogeny and Evolutionary History of Steamer Ducks, *Tachyeres*, with Particular Focus on the Species in the Falkland Islands, Brandon Letts (USA), £800.

Assessing Bird diversity in shed trees of tea gardens in Greater Syhlet Region, Bangladesh, Sharif Ahmed Mukul (Bangladesh), £920.

Abundance and diversity of raptors in surrounding unprotected area of Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State, Nigeria, Joseph Onoja (Nigeria), £800.

Effect of habitat alteration on population density and distribution of Turners Eremomela in South Nandi Forest, Kenya, Nickson Otieno (Kenya), £1000.

Strategies of moult in migrant waders using African inland wetland habitats, Magdalena Remisiewicz (South Africa), £1200.

Habitat requirements and population census of the Cape Verde Warbler *Acrocephalus brevipennis* on Santiago, Cape Verde, Oliver Richings (UK), £600. †

Investigating the habitat requirements and preferences of the endangered Madagascar Pond Heron on Aldabra Atoll, Jennifer Stockdale (UK), £685.

The impact of land use on the breeding Saker Falcons in Vojvo Dina, Serbia, Marko Tucakov (Serbia), £1000.

Establishing a national monitoring programme for White-shouldered Ibis in Cambodia, Hugh Wright (UK), £1995.

† Project did not go ahead and the applicant refunded the grant in full.

### Research project reports

During the year we received and published the following reports from projects previously supported by the Union:

José A. Alves (UK). Implications of winter habitat choice in migratory shorebirds. Awarded £250 in 2006. (*Ibis* 151: 617).

Mikhail Banik (Ukraine). Does Bean Goose have a distinct strategy for autumn versus spring migration in North-eastern Ukraine? Awarded £600 in 2008. (*Ibis* 151: 615-616).

Thomas Gray (UK). Locating critical habitats for Bengal Florican in Cambodia: towards the sustainable management of Tonle Sap Grassland. Awarded £1468 in 2007. (*Ibis* 151: 801).

Ben Phalan (UK). Minimising the impacts of palm oil production on birds and other biodiversity whilst sustaining livelihoods: a case study in the Upper Guinea Forest Zone of Ghana. Awarded £525 in 2006. (*Ibis* 151: 800-801).

#### [www.BIRDGRANTS.org](http://www.BIRDGRANTS.org)

During the year a new one stop website for bird grants and awards, [www.BIRDGRANTS.org](http://www.BIRDGRANTS.org) was established. The aim of this website is to provide a one-stop shop for information on grants and awards available for bird conservation and ornithological projects. The BOU have set up the site and we have already moved our grant web content across to it. Several other fund providers are already listed and it is hoped that the details of all bird and ornithological grant giving bodies will be added by the end of 2010.

#### **Records Committee**

*Members* Mr R.Y. McGowan (Chairman), Mr A.H.J. Harrop (Secretary), Dr A. Brown, Dr M. Collinson, Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*), Mr C. Kehoe, Mr P.A. Lassey, Mr R. Millington, Mr A. Rowlands (Chairman BBRC, *ex officio*), Mr J. Steele, Dr S. Votier.

The Records Committee is responsible for maintaining the British List, the official list of birds recorded in Britain.

The Committee met twice during the year with most of its business conducted by post and email. The Committee's 38th Report, covering the period November 2008 to September 2009 was published in January 2010 (*Ibis* 152: 199-204).

During the year, Mr Jimmy Steele was appointed as a replacement for Dr Tim Melling who retired from the Committee.

#### Changes to the British List

The following species were added to Category A: Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*, Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica*, Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos chlororhynchos*, Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* and Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica dauurica*. The following subspecies were added to Category A: White Wagtail *Motacilla alba leucopsis*, Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus cristatus*, Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus phoenicuroides*.

The following subspecies has been deleted from the List: Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava beema*.

Other changes: Eskimo Curlew *Numenius borealis*: deletion of earliest first record and acceptance of new first record; American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* correction of locality for first

record; Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula*: deletion of six category B records and determination of first records of subspecies *caparoch* and *ulula*.

The changes to the British List published in this report means that the List comprises 588 species (569 Category A, 9 Category B and 10 Category C).

#### Review of Category D species

A review of species in this category continues. For details of changes see the report referred to above.

#### Taxonomic and nomenclatural changes

The Sixth Report of the Taxonomic Sub-committee (*Ibis* 152: 180-186) recommended a new sequence for Passeriformes genera. This change and the deferred change of name and position of the flamingo-grebe clade were adopted in the Committee's 38th Report (*Ibis* 152: 199-204).

#### Category F Sub-committee

No meetings have been held but progress is being made.

#### Committee website

The Committee has continued its development of a website which is used for the storage of images and documents to assist its work.

#### Forward planning

Progress has been made in planning for the digitization of the Committee's archives. Press releases, when appropriate, will continue to be used as a vehicle to ensure the Committee's work is kept in the public eye and to publicise decisions promptly.

#### Formal links

The BOURC maintains its close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). That Committee's Chairman, Mr Adam Rowlands, remains an *ex-officio* member of the BOURC while the BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat.

### **Membership**

The Union's membership showed a welcome increase, albeit very small, with 1087 members at 31 December 2009 (1064 end of 2008). This is the second consecutive year to show a slight increase in membership since the mid-1990s. Online access to *Ibis* continues to be the main reason for joining. We continue to lose members with the recurring reasons (when provided) being access to the journal elsewhere (usually at place of work), retirement and change of research interests.

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2009: Mr Ross Ahmed, Mr Abdulrahman Alenezi, Mr John Babb, Mr David Baker, Ms Sara Burch, Ms Katherine Bygrave, Ms Lindsay Cargill, Mr Michael Compton, Ms Aqua

Nara Dakota, Mr David Darrell-Lambert, Mr Jan De Vries, Mr James Dixon, Mr Florin Feneru, Mr Thomas Ernest Giles, Mr Stuart Gillies, Miss Jessica Haines, Mr Nick Hopper, Mr Patrick Howard, Ms Emily Howard-Williams, Mr Ian Iles, Ms Emily Joachim, Ms Janet Lesley Jones, Mr James Alexander Kempton, Dr Kenneth Laughlin, Mr Sinclair Manson, Mr Adam Manville, Dr Ross McGregor, Mr Robert McMillan, Mr Peter Nicholls, Prof Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu, Mr Yukio Okuda, Mr Nils Duarte Sandell Paixao, Mr Philip Perry, Dr Ernest Pollard, Miss Julia Ann Pounder, Ms Chloe Pritchard, Prof Peter Ryan, Mr Thomas Sacher, Mr Ben Skipper, Mr Andrew Stalker, Mr Brian Stockdale, Dr Pip Strang, Mr Juha Tainen, Mr Robin Whytock and Ms Joanna Wimpenny.

Twenty-three resignations were accepted during the year and Council noted with regret the following deaths: Dr J. Becking, Dr R. Drent, Mr R.E. Scott, Dr D. Snow and Dr E. Urano.

### **British Ornithologists' Club administration**

The BOU Office continues to run various aspects of the BOC's administration including the management, production and sales of BOC publications, the management of institutional subscribers to the BOC's *Bulletin*, the BOC's membership and website activities.

### **Other activities**

#### BOU websites

The BOU's use of the internet continues to evolve. The Union now has three main web portals.

[www.ibis.ac.uk](http://www.ibis.ac.uk) – during the year we developed our own site to manage access to the journal and provide improved connectivity with the Union's other online content. The latter in particular was lacking from the publisher hosted site.

[www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk) – this is the Union's primary website and managed by BOU staff and Eng-Li Green (Alcedo Publishing). The website promotes the Union to a wide audience and is important for recruiting new members, disseminating information about the work of the Union, taking online bookings for conferences and for selling BOU publications. We can continue to use a secure, free online ordering system for sales and membership applications/renewals and conference bookings at no cost to the Union.

Linked to our main website we have developed a series of complimentary sites to offer greater flexibility and increased speed in delivering items to the web. These new sites currently cover news and conferences with other new sites planned for other areas the future.

[www.BOUPROC.net](http://www.BOUPROC.net) - this site provides a one-stop web portal for the Union's published output from our conferences. The site has been developed to cater for the changing requirements of publishing conference proceedings so that we can better meet the needs of conference organisers, authors, funders and ourselves as publishers.

### Online services

The BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts (BRANTA) provides access to theses abstracts. The BOU e-group, BOU BirdTalk, has over 300 members who use the group to exchange news, views and make announcements, etc. The BOU is becoming increasingly dependant on e-groups such as BOU BirdTalk to publicise events and publications.

### Press and media

We continue to receive coverage of BOU Records Committee announcements in the national birdwatching press and online bird services, as well as regional birdwatching reports and e-groups. In addition, the Senior Administrator gave interviews for several national and regional newspapers and appeared on a number of regional radio programmes covering various ornithological issues.

### General administrative items

General correspondence, particularly emails, remains high and continues to take up a significant amount of time.

The BOU maintains a storage facility in Peterborough, which it shares with the BOC, for the storage of publications, journal stocks, sales goods and archive items.

## **Financial Review**

*Honorary Treasurer Mr P.J. Oliver*

The accounts reveal a surplus of £61,000 before changes in investment valuations compared with £33,000 in the previous year. These figures are after taking account of discretionary contributions in support of the Union's charitable activities and the surplus before taking account of these was £80,000, well above last year's surplus of £38,000.

The single most important item affecting this year's result was the substantially increased income from Ibis attributable to our joint venture with our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. This was mainly because the one-off costs of £35,000 for digitising back copies of Ibis incurred last year were not repeated. There were also favourable currency movements in respect of institutional overseas subscriptions.

The single conference in the year generated more income than the two conferences combined held in the previous year. Costs were also higher, but, as reported elsewhere in this report, this was mainly attributable to Council's decision to contribute towards the cost of attendance at the conference by students and overseas speakers. Together with a subsidy to overseas speakers, this reduced the surplus on conferences by some £10,000. Increases in both income and expenditure on publications reflect the publication in the year of the new checklist, reported elsewhere.

Increases in management costs were accounted for mainly by investment in software updates for the BOU office. It is important for the continuing success of the Union that it keeps its IT capability abreast of current developments, given the increasing dependency on internet-based functions.

Part of the Union's investment holdings were sold in the year at a small loss following an extended period of underperformance by the manager, but unrealised profits of £20,000 on the remaining holdings, as a result of market improvements in the year, partly recouped last years losses. The proceeds of the investments sold, together with continuing cash generation from normal operations has resulted in cash resources of £360,000 at the year end compared with £287,000 a year earlier and puts the Union in a strong position to develop further its plans for contributing towards its charitable activities.

As reported last year, Council has determined that it will be appropriate to distribute part of the cash surplus earned in recent years in furtherance of the Union's charitable objectives. During the year, Council approved in principle the disbursement of £30,000 in 2009 and a further £20,000 in 2010. Of these amounts only approximately £20,000 had been committed and incurred by the year-end. The balance, together with any further such sums authorised by Council will be accounted for in future periods when committed and depending on the results of the Union's normal operations, could result in a loss being reported.

### **President's statement**

Dr A. Dawson

The first few years of my term as President were characterised by substantial changes in the way the Union operates, and celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In contrast, 2009 has largely been a year of solid positive progress. Our management team, Steve Dudley as Senior Administrator and Angela Langford as Office and Journal Manager, continue to work very efficiently in their respective roles – Angela is now working full-time. My thanks go to both of them.

The significant event during the year was the resignation of Dr Mike Brooke as Editor-in-Chief of *Ibis*. Mike had been Editor-in-Chief for three years and I thank him for all of his efforts during this period. His resignation did cause us some concern, until Dr Paul Donald volunteered to step up from Editor to take over as Editor-in-Chief. Paul has proved to be an excellent Editor-in-Chief and I am extremely grateful to him.

*Ibis* continues to thrive, in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell. The number of papers submitted has increased, and so too has their quality. When, in 2007, we decided to digitize the back catalogue we hoped that our costs would be covered by the resultant income. In fact, income during 2008 far exceeded costs. But the even larger return on our investment during 2009 came as a pleasant surprise.

As usual, there are many other people I would like to thank (these are listed in full below). However, I am particularly grateful to the team of *Ibis* Editors, who ensure that *Ibis* remains as one of the world's foremost ornithological journals, and to all members of Council and Chairmen and members our Standing Committees for their work throughout the year. Special thanks go to Humphrey Sitters who steps down as Honorary Secretary and to Bob McGowan who steps down as Chairman of the Records Committee.

### **Responsibilities of the Trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. 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.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Union would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the following individuals who have assisted on various BOU activities throughout the year: Mike Brooke, Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Paul Donald, Jeremy Wilson, Patrick Smith and all Associate Editors for their continued hard work on *Ibis*; Debbie Wright, Graeme Henderson, Paul Eddowes and Davina Quarterman and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Dr Will Peach (RSPB), Dr Nicholas Aebischer (GWCT), Mr Richard Brand-Hardy (Defra), Mr Phil Grice (Natural England), Dr Gavin Siriwardena (BTO) and Dr Juliet Vickery (RSPB) for their work on preparing the programme for the annual conference; Bob Cheke (Commissioning editor for all BOU and BOC non-journal titles); Patrick Smith (proof-reader for BOU Checklist Series and copy-editor for BOUPROC.net); Eng-Li Green (BOU website and checklist production); Rob Robinson (BRANTA and BOU BirdTalk); Kim Thompson and Andy McGurk (Peterborough Eco Innovation Centre, venue for BOU meetings); Emma Kettle and Jo Riley and the conference office



staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); and Mark Adams, Katrina Cook, Robert Prys-Jones and Hein van Grouw (Natural History Museum, Tring), Jeremy Adams (Booth Museum, Brighton), Dr Jennifer Downes (University of Aberdeen Science Collections), George Gordon, Dr Tony Irwin (Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery), Prof. Peter de Knijff, Dr A G Knox, Neville McKee, Keith Naylor, Dr Jason Newton (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre), Wilf Norman (Whitby Museum), Steve Nye (Guildhall Museum, Rochester), Roger Riddington, Deryk Shaw, Richard Sutcliffe (Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow), Angela Turner (Ulster Museum, Belfast), Tony Walentowicz (Chelmsford Museum), Mike Wilson (University of Oxford) and Roger Wilkinson (Chester Zoo) (for assisting with the work of the Records Committee).

Approved by the Council on 17 March 2010

And signed on its behalf by

A. Dawson, President .....

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total funds 2008 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from generating funds:						
Voluntary income	2	3,473	–	–	3,473	6,746
Activities for generating funds	3	183,997	21,500	–	205,497	143,207
Investment income	4	10,861	–	5,496	16,357	25,831
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>198,331</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>225,327</b>	<b>175,784</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income					(146,78)	
	5	(114,193)	(32,591)	–	4)	(124,295)
Governance costs	6	(16,644)	–	–	(16,644)	(17,857)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>(130,837)</b>	<b>(32,591)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(163,42)</b>	<b>(142,152)</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>	7	<b>67,494</b>	<b>(11,091)</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>61,899</b>	<b>33,632</b>
Realized loss on disposal of investment assets		(1,105)	–	(789)	(1,894)	(20)
<b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>66,839</b>	<b>(11,091)</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>60,005</b>	<b>33,612</b>
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>						
Unrealized gain on investment assets		12,822	–	7,383	20,205	(85,445)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>		<b>79,211</b>	<b>(11,091)</b>	<b>12,090</b>	<b>80,210</b>	<b>(51,833)</b>
Total funds brought forward		370,232	29,435	136,131	535,798	587,631
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>449,443</b>	<b>18,344</b>	<b>148,221</b>	<b>616,008</b>	<b>535,798</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these financial statements**

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009	2008
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Investments	9	203,386	228,318
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	10	10,205	12,287
Debtors	11	74,204	43,654
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>360,838</u>	<u>287,167</u>
		445,247	343,108
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>-32,625</u>	<u>-35,628</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		412,622	307,480
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>616,008</u>	<u>535,798</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>616,008</u>	<u>535,798</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment funds	13	148,221	136,131
Restricted income funds	14	18,344	29,435
Unrestricted income funds	15	449,443	370,232
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>616,008</u>	<u>535,798</u>

Approved by the Council on 17 March 2010

And signed on its behalf by

A. Dawson, President .....

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these financial statements

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

### Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

### Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

### Life Membership

Life membership subscriptions are accounted for when received. No further releases have been made from Life Members fund since 31st December 2006.

### Legacies

Legacy income is accounted for when received.

### Investments

Investments are recorded in the balance sheet at market value.

## 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2008 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	202	202	349
<b>Legacies</b>			
Legacies	-	-	-
<b>Other income</b>			
Other income	3,271	3,271	6,397
	<b>3,473</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>6,746</b>

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

### 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£
Publication income - Ibis	93,643	–	93,643	55,047
Other publication income	25,872	–	25,872	5,651
Conference income	29,898	21,500	51,398	46,307
Subscriptions	34,584	–	34,584	36,202
	<b>183,997</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>205,497</b>	<b>143,207</b>

### 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable investments	5,803	5,496	11,299	14,674
Bank interest receivable	5,058	–	5,058	11,157
	<b>10,861</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>16,357</b>	<b>25,831</b>

### 5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£
Conference Costs	24,429	21,500	45,929	39,605
Publication costs – Ibis	46,466	–	46,466	50,568
Other publication costs	23,061	–	23,061	9,740
Research costs	–	11,091	11,091	7,742
Management costs	20,237	–	20,237	16,640
	<b>114,193</b>	<b>32,591</b>	<b>146,784</b>	<b>124,295</b>

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

### 6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	4,538	4,538	8,049
Audit fees	4,413	4,413	3,273
Legal fees	–	–	381
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	7,693	7,693	6,154
	<b>16,644</b>	<b>16,644</b>	<b>17,857</b>

### 7. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Staff pension contributions	2,132	6,931
Auditors' remuneration: - audit of the financial statements	<b>4,413</b>	<b>3,273</b>

### 8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Wages and salaries	56,587	49,311
Social security costs	5,798	4,991
Other pension costs	2,132	6,931
	<b>64,517</b>	<b>61,233</b>

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

### Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2009 No	2008 No
Number of administrative staff	2	2

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2008 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

Expenses were paid to Council members of £2,815 (2008 - £2,460)

## 9. INVESTMENTS

### Movement in market value

	2009 £	2008 £
Market value at 1 January 2009	<b>228,318</b>	318,445
Acquisitions at cost	–	–
Disposals at opening book value	<b>(45,137)</b>	(4,684)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	<b>20,205</b>	(85,443)
Market value at 31 December 2009	<b>203,386</b>	228,318

Historical cost at 31 December 2009	<b>118,005</b>	139,890
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### Analysis of investments at 31 December 2009 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2008 £
<b>Listed investments</b>					
Treasury Stock	–	–	15,452	15,452	15,927
Unit Trusts	<b>114,915</b>	–	<b>70,512</b>	<b>185,427</b>	209,884
	<b>114,915</b>	–	<b>85,964</b>	<b>200,879</b>	225,811
<b>Other investments</b>					
UK Cash	–	–	2,507	2,507	2,507
	<b>114,915</b>	–	<b>88,471</b>	<b>203,386</b>	228,318

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

#### 10. STOCKS

	2009	2008
	£	£
Stock	<u>10,205</u>	<u>12,287</u>

#### 11. DEBTORS

	2009	2008
	£	£
Trade debtors	70,890	30,875
Other debtors	3,314	10,233
Prepayments	–	2,546
	<u>74,204</u>	<u>43,654</u>

#### 12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2009	2008
	£	£
Subs in advance	17,907	18,398
Other creditors	5,062	9,272
Accruals	9,656	7,958
	<u>32,625</u>	<u>35,628</u>

#### 13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Investment Gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2009
	£	£	£	£	£
L & MT Research Fund	71,411	2,932	–	6,792	81,135
Research Fund	41,191	1,381	–	276	43,682
Hutt Legacy	23,529	1,183	–	(474)	26,471
Endowed Fund	<u>136,131</u>	<u>5,496</u>	–	<u>6,594</u>	<u>151,288</u>

Income arising from the Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund, the Research Fund and the Hutt Legacy may be used only to fund research. The capital may not be expended.



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

### 14. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Investment Gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2009
	£	£	£	£	£
The Research Fund	29,435	–	(11,091)	–	18,344
The Clancey Legacy Fund	–	–	–	–	–
Conference Sponsorship	–	21,500	(21,500)	–	–
	<b>29,435</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>(32,591)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>18,344</b>

The Research Fund was established by Council to support research. It has no directly attributable investments.

### 15. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Investment Gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2009
	£	£	£	£	£
Life Members Fund	42,685	–	–	2,845	45,530
Conference Fund	68,118	29,898	(24,429)	–	73,587
General Fund	259,429	168,433	(106,408)	8,870	330,326
	<b>370,232</b>	<b>198,331</b>	<b>(130,837)</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>449,443</b>

### 16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:	–	18,344	18,344
Endowment Funds:	88,471	59,750	148,221
Unrestricted Income Funds:	114,915	334,528	449,443
Total Funds	<b>203,386</b>	<b>412,622</b>	<b>616,008</b>

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

We have audited the financial statements of British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2009 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR**

The trustees' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and for being satisfied that the charity's financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records, or if the statement of accounts does not accord with those records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment

of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **OPINION**

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, (in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared (in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice); and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Friary Court  
13 – 21 High Street  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 3DL

ALLIOTTS  
Chartered Accountants &  
Registered Auditors.

17 March 2010