

RSPB Lincoln Local Group. Treasurers Report April 2021-March 2022 Financial Year

This has been the first year since the 2019/2020 Financial Year that we have been able to hold an AGM in person, and the first year since then that we have been able to have anything near a normal operating year, with regards to both events, and finance for The Group.

However, it has not been a full year of normality, as it was not until July 2021 that The Group managed its first social event, with a coach trip to Bampton Cliffs, and in September 2021 we were able to return to somewhere near normality when we resumed our Group Meetings at Bishop Grosseteste University. Unfortunately, attendances at these meetings have been at between 70% and 80% of pre-lockdown averages.

Since then, we have been operating a full programme of events and activities, although we have not returned to taking part in any events at which we had, in the past, been able to raise funds such as the Hartsholme Family Days.

As a result of these factors our financial turnover has been reduced in the year, but the one shining light has been that the bird food sales operation, run by Colin and Jill Jackson from their home in Brant Broughton, remained functioning throughout the lockdown, and as a result, although income from this source has taken a slight dip, it has remained a strong source of income for the group. In fact, this income is second only to the income from the Sunday Coach Trips with regard to income for the group.

This has been a consistent source of funds for The Group over the past few years. Sadly, this has now come to an end with Colin and Jill formally retiring from the role at this year's AGM. Unfortunately, no volunteer has come forward to take on the role so it looks likely that this valuable service to members, and a steady source of income for The Group will now cease. When it is considered that during lockdown, when The Group could not meet or hold any sort of social activity the only function that continued was the bird food sales, and indeed for many months these sales were our only financial transactions and source of funds. The surplus on sales for this year is £940 so this is a sizeable amount that we have no possible way of making up for from any other sources.

My personal thanks go to Colin and Jill for all their hard work over the years, and my very best wishes for a long and comfortable retirement.

Due to the reduced numbers at the Group Indoor Meetings, and an increase in cost for the room hire, as a stand-alone event, the group is losing money on these meetings, as the income from entry at the door rarely covers the costs of the speaker and room hire. It is only due to the very generous sponsorship that we receive from certain members that allows the Indoor meetings to remain financially viable.

This sponsorship is a combination of commercial sponsors, who also advertise in the Newsletters and Programme, and private sponsors, who usually donate in memory of a loved one, who themselves were members. I would like to thank Carol Harvey, Margaret Lunn, Shirley Warner and Janette Marshall for their generous sponsorship and also to those people who sponsor the group anonymously. You know who you are, and so do I, so thanks to you all.

Earlier in the year Peter and myself did undertake an exercise to seek a more cost-effective venue for the meetings, but this proved to be very difficult in terms of finding a venue that offered facilities that match those at BG, including the AV equipment, parking and accessibility, and following a report to the committee from us, the committee decided that for the foreseeable future we would remain at BG. However, with rising costs, and falling attendance figures, this is a situation that now needs to be regularly reviewed.

The same applies to the Sunday Coach Trips where numbers are down on previous years and the rising costs of coach hire has already pushed up the costs to a level where, in preparing the coming years programme, we are having to look very carefully at both the distance we travel, the length of the day, and the size and quality of the coaches that we use. In the past we have tried very hard to keep the cost of a Sunday Coach Trip below £30/person, only exceeding this on rare occasions when we have either travelled further afield, or to a site with a high entry fee. Unfortunately, this £30 limit is getting increasingly difficult to maintain.

It is worth reminding members of just how we work out these costs. About May of each year Mike Willey will prepare a list of dates and venues for the following year. I then look to obtain a cost for coach hire by seeking quotes from a number of companies. Once we have those costs, I then work out a cost per person for the trip based on the total cost of the trip which includes the coach, entry fees and parking plus a gratuity for the driver. I then divide the total cost by 26 to arrive at a cost per person. The figure of 26 then becomes the minimum number of people who need to actually take the trip in order for the total cost to be recovered, which is the break-even point. Any extra people over this number generates a surplus, and it is the surpluses that help us to make a donation to the RSPB.

So as you can see we are working up to 17-months in advance when we set the prices. We believe that the prices we charge represent good value for a day out, with nothing else to pay for except your drinks and a slice of cake. However, as prices continue to rise we will need to keep this under review, but of course one way to keep the cost down is to ensure that the trips are well supported, something that is down to you, the members.

One big change in how we do business in the past year has been the introduction of payment by card, both Contactless and Chip and Pin. This has proved to be a great success with almost £6,000 of payments made by card since its first use in July 2021. There is no doubt that this will increasingly become the preferred method of payment for many people, and something we will be continuing with in the future. We do of course pay a fee to the company that provide this service to us, at a rate of 1.75% for each transaction, but this cost is considered to be balanced by convenience factor for all concerned.

Calendar sales were strong again this year with the quality of the photos increasing year on year, and every copy being sold, generating a healthy surplus for Group Funds.

All in all if you remove the donation to the RSPB from the figures the Local Group generated a surplus of income over expenditure of £2716.17p for the year.

The Holiday Account stood almost dormant for nearly 2-years as our ability to travel and socialise were curtailed. In September 2019 Mike Wiley confirmed a holiday to Somerset, to take place in June 2020 and in January 2020 we paid a deposit of £3735.00 to the Walnut Tree Hotel. This payment has been at risk of being lost ever since, as had the hotel

ceased trading, we would have been unable to recover this. I am pleased to say that the hotel did stay in business, and indeed as you read this the group of 36 members who had booked for this holiday will in fact be enjoying their stay in Somerset. This pleases me no end, as I have in fact had to carry the finances for this holiday across four different financial years, (2019 to 2023).

However, following the easing of restrictions, the group have been able to enjoy 2 holidays, booked quite quickly by Mike, to Northumberland in October 2021 followed by a trip to Lancashire in January 2022. Both trips were successful in terms of enjoyment for those attending, and the wildlife seen, as well as each holiday generating a surplus that will allow us to set an ambitious programme for the coming year.

Unfortunately, as with our monthly coach trips, the cost of travel and hotels is rising, and while we will endeavour to keep prices down there is one area that is beyond our control, that is having quite an impact on how we do business. The Somerset holiday was the first example that we had encountered where a hotel required a substantial deposit to secure the rooms that we required, and a common theme is for hotels to now ask for the first nights accommodation as a deposit, and often this is non-refundable on cancellation. This has meant that we have been forced to ask for a significant increase in the size of the deposit we ask for when booking, and the need to get these paid in as soon as possible, so that we can confirm the booking. Both Mike and I are grateful for your co-operation with this, it is never easy getting people to part with their hard-earned money.

As well as existing to provide a means for like-minded people to meet and share their love of birds and wildlife the group also has the aim of financially supporting the work of the RSPB.

In most years The Group has made a donation to the RSPB, money which is effectively the surplus that we make on our finances during the year, generated from the activities that I have highlighted, and from our holidays. Due to the fact that we were at risk of losing the deposit we had paid to the Walnut Tree Hotel for the Somerset holiday, I did not feel that we could afford to take any funds from the holiday account to put toward a donation to the RSPB. So for 2021 we made a donation to the RSPB of £4,000 with the funds coming entirely from the Current Account. Not as large as in previous years, but nonetheless a good contribution, especially with times being so difficult.

Below are the audited accounts for the year 2021/2022. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Graham Mumby-Croft
Group Treasurer.
May 2022

RSPB LINCOLN LOCAL GROUP
CHARITY ACCOUNT 1ST APRIL 2021 to TO 31ST MARCH 2022
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

2020/2021	Charity Accounts (Coop & Lloyds)	2021/2022
£13,171.63	Opening Balance	£6,122.26
£6,122.26	Closing Balance	£4,838.43
-£7,049.37	Increase/Decrease in Funds	-£1,283.83
Closing Balance Represented By:		
£5,909.26	Cash in Bank (Lloyds Account)	£4,670.43
£180.00	Cash in hand(Treasurer)	£130.00
£33.00	Cash in hand (Bird seed)	£38.00
£6,122.26	TOTALS	£4,838.43

I hereby certify that I have examined the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 and the Balance Sheet as at that date of the RSPB Lincoln Local Group Charity Account.

I confirm that the Accounting Records provided to me are in accordance with the accounts.

The cash and bank balances as at the Balance Sheet date have either been counted or verified by me with reconciled bank statements.

Signed



I McNish FCA

Independent Examiner

Skellingthorpe

Date

28th April 2022

Lincoln

RSPB LINCOLN LOCAL GROUP

CHARITY ACCOUNT 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2022

INCOME AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

2020/2021	Income	2021/2022
£0.00	Indoor Meetings	£1,829.00
£0.00	Indoor Meeting Sponsorship	£750.00
£15.00	Field Meetings	£5,233.00
£0.00	Sponsorship-Programmes	£250.00
£0.00	Sponsorship-Advertising-Newsletter-Calendar	£70.00
£3,385.46	Bird Food Sales	£3,207.82
£0.00	Committee	£0.00
£0.00	Fundraising Events	£0.00
£611.50	Calendar Sales	£617.50
£20.00	Donations	£197.83
£0.00	Income from Talks	£70.00
£0.00	Transfer from holiday account for donation to RSPB	£0.00
£114.80	Miscellaneous Receipts	£1,705.00
£4,146.76	TOTAL INCOME	£13,930.15

Signed

J. McNish

I McNish FCA

Independent Examiner

Skellingthorpe

Date

28th April 2022

Lincoln

RSPB LINCOLN LOCAL GROUP

CHARITY ACCOUNT 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2022

EXPENDITURE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>
£0.00	Indoor Meetings	£2,046.42
£0.00	Field Meetings	£4,068.50
£0.00	Printing/Distribution-Programmes	£362.94
£0.00	Printing-Newsletters	£162.75
£2,573.75	Bird Food Costs	£2,267.76
£142.31	Committee Costs/Expenses	£393.95
£0.00	Stationery	£0.00
£0.00	Events/Fun Days	£0.00
£394.00	Calendar	£317.30
£8,000.00	Donations-RSPB	£4,000.00
£86.07	Miscellaneous Expenses	£1,549.36

£11,196.13

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£15,168.98

Signed



I McNish FCA

Independent Examiner

Skellingthorpe

Date

28th April 2022

Lincoln

RSPB (Lincoln Local Group) Holiday Account 1st April 2021-31st March 2022

01/04/2021 Funds held:-

2020/2022 Holiday deposits	1,560.00
Retained funds	3,902.73
Balance in Lloyds Holiday account	£5,462.73

INCOME During The Financial Year 2021/2022

Payments Received for Northumberland Holiday Oct 2021	5,735.50
Payments Received for Lancashire Holiday Jan 2022	5,925.00
Payments Received for Somerset HOLIDAY May 2022	7996.00
Total Income during the year	£19,656.50
Total (Balance Carried Forward + Income)	£25,119.23

EXPENDITURE

Holiday Costs Northumberland Oct 2021	5,393.09
Holiday costs Lancashire Jan 2022	5,418.84
Public Liability insurance	0.00
Holiday Costs Somerset May 2022 (Refund+Card Charges).	142.92
	£10,954.85

31/3/2022 Funds held:-

Balance From 1/4/21+Income for 2021-Expenditure for 2021	£14,164.38
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31/03/2022 Breakdown of Funds held:-

Total balance in account	£14,164.38
Of which Deposits/payments for May 2022 Holiday	£9,856.00
Balance/Uncommitted Funds	£4,308.38

I hereby certify that I have examined the Income and Expenditure account for the year ending 31st March 2022 and Balance Sheet as at that date of the RSPB Lincoln Local Group Holiday Account, and certify that the accounting and banking records presented to me are in accordance with the accounts. The Bank Balance as at 31st March 2022 has been verified by me with reconciled bank statements. There are no cash balances.

Signed		Ivor McNish Independent Examiner
Date	28 th April 2022	Skellingthorpe, Lincoln