

Registered Charity Number: 1081826

**LIPU - UK
Trustees' Report and Accounts
for the year ended
30 June 2021**

Wright Vigar Ltd
Chartered Accountants
And Business Advisers
15 Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1XG

LIPU - UK

**Trustees' Report and Accounts for the
Year ended 30 June 2021**

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**Trustees Annual Report for the
Year ended 30 June 2021**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1st July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Chairman: Mr Matthew Hines
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr David Lingard
Members: Miss Patricia Dugard
Mrs Shirley Lingard
Mrs Lesley Tompkins
Independent Examiner: Jack O'Hern FCA
Wright Vigar Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors
15 Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1XG

Aims and objectives

The object of the Charity is to further the charitable works of Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU) by making grants or providing such other assistance as the executive committee shall from time to time determine.

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

Public Benefit

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Your Trustees

There has been no change in personnel or officers since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting. We welcome enquiries from anyone who feels he/she might want to join us — it won't take up much of your time.

Project progress in 2020/21

2019/2020 was an unusual year in that COVID-19 restrictions impacted on the delivery of some projects and funds allocated were not spent. The impact was less than initially appeared likely and has lessened in 2020/21. LIPU reported this sum to be €25,418; the Trustees agreed in October 2020 to reallocate €15,000 to cover four projects suggested by LIPU's Conservation Director and confirmed that the remainder was to be held as a Contingency Fund to cater for any changes which might occur in the year due to Covid. With the addition of €10,000 Membership contribution a total of €74,000 was agreed to support projects in 2021.

Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 30 June 2021

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably a report to the June 2021 Trustees' meeting.

1) Bird Hospitals

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2020/21, LIPU-UK funds (€7,000) were again provided to support this important work.

2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle nesting sites, Sicily.

Nest monitoring started in January 2021, when Covid-19 limitations on movements were still in place, both between Sicilian provinces and from other regions. Covid-19 limitations prevented the usual 24hr camps and led to an adapted monitoring scheme, including the installation of 9 remote monitoring cameras. In Catania province, seven volunteers were able to monitor seven nests (of which three were unknown from previous years). Each nest was monitored three times per week. Five nests produced a fledgling and one nest produced two. One of these was taken to Sardinia where a LIFE project is attempting to reintroduce the species. One nest was abandoned at the beginning of the breeding season for reasons unknown.

The traditional camp in Niscemi (Gela) proceeded to cover the two nest sites. A nest that was illegally depredated in April 2018 produced a fledgling, and the second nest was also successful. The year's project activities (in support of which LIPU-UK provided €2,000) drew to a close on May 30th, 2021.

3) Anti-Poaching activities

LIPU-UK provided €7,000 to support anti-poaching activities.

Southern Sardinia

The winter anti-poaching camp went ahead as planned, in co-operation with the Forest Carabinieri, the Regional Forestry Corps and the staff of the WWF Monte Arcosu Oasis. Preparatory surveys of likely thrush capture sites was undertaken in December 2020, allowing surveillance activities in February 2021. This led to 6 people being reported for illegal bird trapping and capture of mammals, along with the seizure of 250 snap traps, 45 bird traps and 20 nets. Surveillance of Starling wintering sites within the Molentargius Park led to identification of a poacher trying to catch starlings seizure of a large net and the discovery of about 15 Starlings, frozen and ready for sale, at his home.

Messina Strait camp

Last year I reported that the 2019 spring camp was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is therefore satisfactory to report that the 2020 camp went ahead on the Calabrian side between April 24th and May 8th, albeit limited by Covid-19 restrictions to a single volunteer and the camp coordinator. Eleven areas were monitored, all of them are important for the migration. Weather conditions this year made the passage rather less predictable than in many years. Good communication links with others including the observers involved in the migration monitoring project (which runs simultaneously – see below), aided the effectiveness of the anti-poaching effort.

LIPU detected two instances of poaching near Calanna and were informed about several other poaching events (near Villa San Giovanni, Passo del Falco, Archi, Catona and Solano). In some cases these involved birds being shot. Information was passed to the Carabinieri. Poachers may have felt more free to act this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the scale of activity did not approach the lamentable levels of poaching from 20 years ago. Since this year showed some signs of sliding back to the past situation (when rampant poaching occurred), LIPU-UK intend to continue to support this project in the coming years.

**Trustees Annual Report for the
Year ended 30 June 2021****4) Monitoring raptor migration and Messina strait camp.**

In 2020 the LIPU spring camp was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and monitoring of migrating raptors was delivered by a partner organisation (Ornis italica). Again, it is pleasing to report that the 2021 LIPU spring camp (15th March – 31st May) was able to proceed. The count of nearly 29,000 raptors between the two monitoring stations underlines the importance of this migration route and LIPU's mission to safeguard it. Limited funding was required (€5,000) due to the availability of unspent funds from the previous year's Covid-impacted activities.

5) Red-footed falcon in Parma province

LIPU-UK continue our long-term funding (€7,000) towards Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy. Population monitoring and the success of a nest box scheme continue, together with research into the land use of this species using GPS trackers. The project continues to be largely unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions. GPS devices have been applied to an adult male and an adult female and data collection (use of habitat) is underway. LIPU is working with a PhD fellow from the University of Varese to collect data on terrestrial invertebrates and vertebrates (which are the prey of the Red-footed Falcon, Lesser Kestrel and Kestrel) and to study diet at various locations in the eastern Po Valley.

6) Kentish plover in Sardinia

Last year, LIPU-UK agreed to provide €7,000 for survey work to better understand the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be a major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species. A dramatic population decline is indicated by data from the only years available (2010 (580-645 pairs) versus 2018 (175-188)). However, a suitable plan of action is not possible with insufficient data. Unfortunately, the project had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

LIPU-UK re-committed €7,000 and the field work finally took place in May 2021, in Apulia (Foggia province only), Calabria, and Sardinia. Data collection and analysis is ongoing at the time of writing.

7) Adaptation of alpine species to climate change

Mountain birds are among the animal groups most threatened by climate and environmental changes. There is an urgent need to develop conservation strategies integrating broad-scale policies and local-scale, fine-tuned management protocols to allow alpine birds and biodiversity in general to survive in warming mountains. The aim of this project is thus to develop and test management protocols and other conservation strategies in the Alps, to preserve suitable conditions for bird species tied to high-elevation habitats. LIPU-UK previously agreed to fund a consultant, project coordination and field work-related expenses, to produce adaptive guidelines and preliminary testing of some of them in a protected alpine area. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, field work could not be undertaken, and a wholesale review of the project was carried out, resulting in significant change of scope. The main output was changed to a predicted range distribution of the target species under climate change conditions for a range of different scenarios. This could be used to support LIPU's advocacy work to stop habitat destruction in the Alps.

A scientific paper was completed in summer 2021. This piece of work made it possible to identify alpine areas that will remain suitable for some target bird species under future climatic scenarios. A first concrete result is that these areas will be considered for inclusion in a future ecological network in the Valle d'Aosta region.

**Trustees Annual Report for the
Year ended 30 June 2021****8) Lanner nest sites protection**

LIPU-UK provided €3,000 to fund the protection of Lanner falcon nests in Tuscany by LIPU volunteers, in an effort to prevent their local extinction. The Lanner in Italy is of the subspecies F. B. Feldeggi; of which there are c430-840 pairs worldwide. Recent research has shown a dramatic decline and currently, there are only a few pairs in peninsular Italy and c60 in Sicily. In 2019, I reported that four fledglings had left two Tuscan nests protected by LIPU volunteers. Sad to report that in 2020 only one breeding pair was located. LIPU put in place an intensive monitoring and protection system including automated security cameras on approach routes, supported by rapid response from a team of volunteers, with the aid of the police. Thanks to these efforts, three juveniles fledged from this nest. LIPU volunteers continue to search the region for other lanner breeding sites.

9) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas (residual funds from 2019).

Regional data collected in previous years are being analysed in order to produce an updated IBA inventory. LIPU-UK has provided €15,000 to facilitate this process.

10) Collared Pratincole

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared Pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful breeding, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females laid eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests.

In April 2021, six LIPU volunteers searched the Gela plain for nesting sites, finding 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas. Agreement was reached with two landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged. LIPU-UK provided €3,000 to support this effort.

Since the plain was almost entirely cultivated with wheat, nest detection was more challenging compared to 2019 and 2020. This land use leaves little space and colonies may become fragmented and more exposed to predation. Looking forward, a possible conservation strategy may be to rent some small farmland areas and manage them for the species.

11) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region

The Montagu's Harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of LIPU (the latter for at least the last 15 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino. LIPU-UK have fully funded (€3,000 and €1,000 from unspent 2019/20 funds) the growth of this programme.

There were two phases: i) car tours to identify potential sites with a breeding pair present; ii) after identifying a pair, a thorough survey to discover the nest site. About 9-10 pairs have been identified and only one could be located in a site at risk of being disturbed (farmland). Fortunately, most of the nests in Marche are found in gully areas; a remarkable difference from the Viterbo area.

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The ambition is to transform this into an annual commitment and to gradually increase the study area. A broader ambition is to shape a dedicated programme on nest protection covering species such as Bonelli's Eagle, Lanner, Collared Pratincole, Montagu's Harrier, possibly also Corncrake and Little Bustard.

12) Local Conservation Groups

In July 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities.

The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research.

120 volunteers in 18 groups were involved throughout Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily. Volunteers come from all age groups, from students to retirees, and have varying levels of experience in the environmental field, so that experts can assist other volunteers in learning about issues related to biodiversity and its conservation.

Currently there are 20 Local Conservations Groups with around 150 volunteers distributed in 13 regions and involved in the monitoring of 31 target species in 28 sites belonging to the Natura 2000 network, including Lesser Grey Shrike, Black Woodpecker, Purple Heron and Collared Pratincole. LIPU-UK agreed to commit €5,000 to help fund these groups.

13) Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and Gulls are among the most impacted species. The Trustees agreed to re-allocate € 10,000 from unspent 2019/20 funds to enable the co-financing of this project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch.

14) Climate Change Education

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, LIPU-UK has agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany) from unspent 2019/20 funds (€ 3,000). This project started 3 years ago with the benefit of a grant and worked with more than 30 schools in Rome, Tuscany and Lombardy. The schools have requested a further programme with new students and LIPU-UK's funding will now enable LIPU to continue offering the program for free.

Financial Review

a) Income

At the end of the financial year, we had received £107,202 (2019/20: £114,213). A substantial portion of this total were legacies totalling £33,929, for which the Trustees express their gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, donations left by Jill Kendrick and Charmian Woodfield. LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity; the over £40,000 raised represents the highest total ever for the annual appeal. Another valuable contribution was Gift Aid, which amounted to over £8,876. Given the historically low membership numbers and very low interest rates, this has to be seen as an excellent result.

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b) Expenditure

This was £6,939 (2019/20 £9,298), representing 6.47% (2019/20 8.15%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable aim of keeping costs below 10%. The substantially lower ratio this year is pleasing; the further reduction on 2019/20 being due to reduced advertising and newsletter costs and a welcome absence of legal fees. As was the case in 2019/20, the low ratio should be seen in the context of an income inflated by sizeable legacies. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

c) LIPU Project Funding

In June 2021, the Trustees approved transfer of €74,000, (£64,527) to LIPU to progress project funding in 21/22.

Financial Reserves

At the year end the charity had total reserves of £273,634 (2020: £237,515), represented by £273,634 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.
- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

Risks to the Charity

a) Financial.

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme. The search for safe accounts offering generous rates of interest continues.

b) Membership.

There has been a slow decline in numbers over many years, linked to the ageing profile of the membership. However, I am delighted to report a modest increase in numbers this year, thanks to the success of the recruiting campaign through Birdwatch magazine. As a result, the current membership of 654 represents a net gain of 8 from the 646 reported last year.

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Year ended 30 June 2021**

c) Trustees.

The current Trustees acknowledge that with the march of time, they cannot continue in office indefinitely. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing.

Acknowledgements

We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication. David's efforts are not only on the administration but also the talks which are our main outreach, although these have been discontinued during the Covid pandemic.

We are also grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 54th— and sadly, we are still needed. If anyone out there feels they can spare some time to join LIPU-UK's Trustees and maintain LIPU-UK's contribution, do let us know. You may well find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

Summary

2021 has also been affected by the pandemic, with all its continuing impacts on health, society and economy. No family or organisation has been left untouched in some way; this follows for LIPU (and to a lesser extent LIPU-UK). LIPU staff and volunteers have set aside often difficult personal circumstances and battled to deliver their conservation programme despite ongoing restrictions. What has been achieved this year is again a testament to their dedication. This year, the Trustees wish to particularly acknowledge the continued invaluable support of Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director during extremely testing personal circumstances.

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 5% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.



Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

**Receipts and Payments Account
for the Year ended 30 June 2021**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Receipts				
Legacies	33,929	-	33,929	49,000
Subscriptions and donations	18,935	40,055	58,990	51,762
Annual draw	2,520	-	2,520	2,922
Gift aid	<u>8,876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,876</u>	<u>7,382</u>
	64,260	40,055	104,315	111,066
Deposit account interest	<u>2,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>3,147</u>
Total receipts	<u>67,147</u>	<u>40,055</u>	<u>107,202</u>	<u>114,213</u>
Payments				
Project funding	24,472	40,055	64,527	87,993
Bank charges	20	-	20	13
Newsletter production	2,077	-	2,077	2,529
Travel	36	-	36	424
Postage	1,646	-	1,646	1,682
Printing	45	-	45	372
Annual Draw	896	-	896	893
Trustees meetings	171	-	171	-
Independent Examination	678	-	678	660
Stationery	147	-	147	55
Advertising, website & promotion	732	-	732	1,430
Miscellaneous admin costs	107	-	107	424
Insurance	-	-	-	-
Legal fees	-	-	-	816
Total payments	<u>(31,027)</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	<u>(71,082)</u>	<u>(97,291)</u>
Net cash inflow / (outflow)	36,120	-	36,120	16,922
Balance at beginning of year	<u>237,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>237,515</u>	<u>220,593</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>273,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,635</u>	<u>237,515</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30 June 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Monetary Assets				
Cash in hand	57	-	57	38
Cooperative Bank Account	3,520	-	3,520	2,230
Other cash at bank	34	-	34	99
Cash on Deposit	<u>270,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>270,024</u>	<u>235,148</u>
	273,634	-	273,634	237,515
Fixed Assets				
Franking machine – Net book value	95	-	95	191
Laptop computer	<u>234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>366</u>
	329	-	329	557
Other Assets				
Gift Aid debtor	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,223</u>
	-	-	-	3,223
Liabilities				
Accruals – independent examination	<u>714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>678</u>
	714	-	714	678

The financial statements on pages 8 and 9 were approved by the trustees on 8 November 2021



Matt Hines
Chairman

Notes to the financial statements**1. Accounting convention**

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Income" on the previous page does not include the Gift Aid debtor shown as an asset above, and "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

2. Related party disclosures

During the year, David Lingard, a trustee of the Charity, was reimbursed £36.00 (2020: £15.60) for travel expenses. Pat Dugard, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £Nil (2020: £Nil) for travel expenses. Lesley Tompkins, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £29.60 (2020: £Nil) for travel expenses.

3. Movement in funds

	At 1.7.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.6.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
Business reserve	10,000	-	-	10,000
Project reserve	<u>227,515</u>	<u>36,119</u>	-	<u>263,634</u>
	237,515	36,119	-	273,634
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total Monetary funds	<u>237,515</u>	<u>36,119</u>	-	<u>273,634</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
Business reserve	-	-	-	-
Project reserve	<u>67,147</u>	<u>(31,411)</u>	-	<u>36,119</u>
	67,147	(31,411)	-	36,119
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	<u>40,055</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	-	-
	<u>40,055</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	-	-
Total funds	<u>107,202</u>	<u>(71,466)</u>	-	<u>36,119</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of LIPU - UK

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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J O'Hern FCA
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20 September 2021