

## **HENFIELD BIRDWATCH – Treasurer’s Report 2023**

Firstly, thank you all for your support during 2023. Our membership has remained stable at around 250 – though by March 2024 had increased by another 10.

Income during 2023 came mainly from subscriptions (£1404) exactly the same as in 2022. There was a small amount which came from entrance fees, donations and book sales. We delivered free books to those of our members who do not have internet access and were unable to read the 2021 book via the website. Cost of book production therefore exceeded the sales, but we were pleased that Brian and Paul were able to source a cheaper option of “print on demand” so we could order a smaller supply, and call up more if required.

We called a halt to our venture into branded clothing as there was little take up. Items were ordered as required, so we were not left with unsold stock.

We did incur extra expense of approx. £12 per month for our MailChimp account which we use for sending information to members, but this was not reimbursed to Debbie until 2024. This will be an ongoing expense, and the free version was no longer adequate for our requirements.

Our main items of expenditure were printing the 2021 Report (£128.64), website costs (£292.58), Hall hire (£211.50), reimbursement for merchandise purchase (£548.96) some of which referred to 2022, and insurance (£157). We changed from the previous insurers as they almost doubled the cost for renewal, and joined the Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which enabled us to use their insurers, Zurich. Very kindly, both of our speakers gave their talks free of charge.

Our Big Bird Bash walks in May raised £483 for The Haven; donations were given to Birdwatch and we subsequently handed the total over to The Haven.

The excess of income over expenditure was £561.85 and we finished the year with £4664.54 in the bank. Plans for publication of “The Birds of Henfield” are well under way, and will come to fruition during 2024, thanks to Paul’s efforts and dedication. We will be using the print on demand option again, so our initial outlay should not be overwhelming!

Once again we have been able to maintain the same subscription level, as virtually all our members are able to receive newsletters and updates via MailChimp, so printing costs for these are minimal.

The accounts were examined and agreed by Wendy Whittaker.

Val Bentley (Treasurer)  
23 March 2024