Open Spaces Society

Annual report and accounts 2009

THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

Vice-presidents, officers, trustees and staff

31 December 2009

Vice-presidents	David (Lord) Clark	Edgar Powell
	Len Clark	John Riddall
	Paul Clayden	Bernard Selwyn
	Roger de Freitas	Margaret Smith
	Tony (Lord) Greaves	Anne Wilks
	Richard Mabey	Pat Wilson
Chairman	Rodney Legg (to July 2009)	Jackie Warr (from July 2009) (F, L)
Vice-chairman	Phil Wadey (L)	
Treasurer	vacant	
Trustees	Diane Andrewes (to Oct 2009)	Peter Newman (L)
	Chris Beney (F)	Peter Turtill (to July 2009)
	Tim Crowther	John Willson (to Feb 2009)
	John Ives (from Jul 2009)	
	Donald Lee (to Jul 2009)	

Trustees

F = member finance subcommittee
L = member legal subcommittee

Custodian trustees

Paul Clayden Phil Wadey
Rodney Legg

Staff

General secretary	Kate Ashbrook
Case officer	Nicola Hodgson
Financial administrator	Moira Holloway (to Mar 2009)
	Mark Taylor (from Mar 2009)
Publications secretary	Julie Jiggens
Office manager	Ruth Walker

Bank: Barclays Bank plc, Mid Thames Group, PO Box 1, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AX

Solicitors: Mercers, 50 New Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BX. Zermansky & Partners, 10 Butts Court, Leeds LS1 5JS

Surveyor: Severage Greaves Ltd, 9 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0EL

Open Spaces Society
Trustees' Report for 2009

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name and number
The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (short title being [The] Open Spaces Society); registered number 214753.

Principal and registered office
25A Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2BA

Names of trustees, advisers and staff
The trustees are listed on the cover of this document, together with details of advisers and the names of the staff.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the charity's governing document
Constitution, the latest version of which was adopted by the annual general meeting on 1 July 2008 and amended on 30 June 2009.

Methods of recruiting and appointing trustees
Encouraging members to consider standing as trustees, by advertising in the society's journal and making appeals for involvement at annual general meeting, plus personal approaches. Most trustees are elected by the annual general meeting and there is a limited power of co-option.

Details of any outside party who can appoint trustees
None

Related party disclosures
No transaction which would need to be disclosed has been notified by any trustee, in relation to the year, nor any balance outstanding from previous years.

Declarations of interest
An agenda item for recording these, if any are declared, appears on the agenda for each trustee meeting. The society's insurers require a statement to be minuted at each meeting that the trustees are not aware of anything arising which might lead to a claim on the society's indemnity policy.

Risk management statement
The society maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed by trustees with practical precautions being implemented by officers and staff.

Public benefit statement

Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 requires the charity trustees to comply with their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The trustees are very mindful of this obligation and have been referring to the guidance when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning their future activities. In particular, they have considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

Summary of the charity's objects and strategy for achieving them
Campaigning to create and conserve common land, village greens, open spaces and rights of public access in town and country, in England and Wales. These objects are furthered both locally and nationally. The society is building up a network of correspondents who can visit problem places on the ground and make representations regarding proposed changes to the path network in particular. Initiatives are also securing the registering of new village greens and the resistance to encroachments on common land.

At a national level the society's unique expertise is its accumulated knowledge in the complicated case law and common law that apply to common land and its user rights. Bodies such as the Countryside Council for Wales, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the National Assembly for Wales (NAW), the National Trust and Natural England acknowledge the society's primacy in this area. The society is a statutory consultee for applications for works on common land.

It also endeavours to improve the law for the benefit of the public by protecting places of beauty and interest and achieving better public access to such locations. This is done by challenging unacceptable proposals—sometimes through the courts—and more generally by lobbying and media attention.

Achievements and performances, delivery of public benefit

Summary of main achievements during the year
These are listed below under headings which reflect the four main objects in our constitution.

1. To protect commons, greens and other open spaces
The society responded to calls from members for advice on protection and management of at least 52 commons, 40 registered greens and 47 other open spaces. Many more cases and disputes came to us from consultations from official bodies, or were dealt with by our local correspondents.

Defra and the NAW sought our advice on 55 applications for works on, or exchanges of, common land. We objected to 18 of them.

Of the 53 applications which were determined during the year, one was rejected following our advice: the exchange of common land at Crowborough in East Sussex. Eight were approved despite our objections.

Our general secretary advised managers of commons on consideration of the public interest in preparing plans for the land. She visited a number of commons in England and Wales to look at issues concerning management, grazing and fencing. She is a member of the Odiham Common steering group advising on the management scheme for this common in Hampshire and had a stand for the society at an open day in Odiham for residents around the common.

Our case officer continued to be active on Defra's National Common Land Stakeholder Group and the Chilterns Conservation Board's Commons Network. She provided advice to members on registering land under part 1 of the Commons Act 2006, currently live in seven pilot areas, and we are encouraging members to research land that may be eligible for registration.

We worked with Barry Sheerman MP (Labour, Huddersfield) and others on plans to establish an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Open Spaces.

We raised £15,500 from our appeal to members for support in campaigning to save open spaces and paths and a further £6,500 for lobbying candidates in the Westminster election in 2010.

New greens
We advised at least 143 members about registering greens and celebrated many successes. We expressed our concerns at plans by Defra to review the process for registration of greens and gathered evidence to show that the process was generally not being abused and that such a review was not necessary.

2. To protect and enhance public rights of way and public access. The office dealt with 77 requests for advice on paths and our local correspondents pursued innumerable others.

Our general secretary attended eight meetings of Natural England's stakeholder working group on rights of way, the successor to the Discovering Lost Ways project, and by the year's end the group's work neared completion. Chris Beney continued to represent us on a working party helping Defra draft a guidance note for path structures in path orders and in authorisations for structures on paths.

Our member Peter Kidner won his case in the Crown Court regarding gates which obstruct Barcroft Lane in south Somerset, but we were dismayed when the landowner appealed to the High Court, for hearing in January 2010.

Once again we opposed the closure of the Thames Path National Trail during the Henley festival and managed to dissuade Wokingham Borough Council, the highway authority, from agreeing to a blanket closure for evermore.

3. To secure the creation of new public paths and open spaces. The Marine and Coastal Access Act won royal assent on 12 November. This will lead to the creation of a trail and access margin right round the coast of England. We followed the Bill closely during its passage through parliament, backing amendments and briefing MPs and peers.

Henley-on-Thames Town Council, a member of the society, voluntarily registered its land at Gillotts Field as a village green. The London Borough of Camden also voluntarily registered Talacre Gardens as a green.

4. To protect the beauty of the countryside.
The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn, confirmed the designation of the South Downs as a national park, with the wider boundary which we, with many others, had advocated. This was the culmination of a decades-long campaign by our society and others.

We were dismayed at the decision of the ministers for environment and defence to allow military live-firing to continue in the Dartmoor National Park for a further 21 years when the current licences expire, ie to 2033, contrary to the views of the Dartmoor National Park Authority, the Campaign for National Parks, the Dartmoor Preservation Association and ourselves, among others. However, we were pleased that the Duchy of Cornwall resolved to close the Dartmoor military road to civilian traffic, thereby restoring some wildness to northern Dartmoor.

Our general secretary accompanied Welsh and English ministers on a walk to

Snowdon's summit to celebrate the opening of the new building on top, Hafod Eryri.

Organisational management

A highlight of the year was the open day for members to celebrate the general secretary's 25 years in post, which we organised on 15 August at Aldbury in Hertfordshire. Our vice-president Richard Mabey and local correspondent Chris Hall led walks. Members enjoyed a cream tea and an opportunity to talk to other members. Our member, Michèle Kohler, generously presented a cheque for £2,500 from the Bantam Trust, to be spent as the general secretary chose. Kate decided to put it towards a local correspondents' training weekend in 2010.

We ended the year with 31 local correspondents. John Fawcett, Alan Morley and Christopher Watson retired. We welcomed Chris Bloor, Mark Green, Rodney Legg and Paul Partington. We thank all our correspondents for their invaluable work and hope to recruit new volunteers to join them.

We are grateful to the following trusts for donations
Bantam Trust and Gatliff Trust.

At a well-attended annual general meeting in July our vice-president Roger de Freitas took the chair. The meeting agreed to amend our constitution so that the objects require us to 'protect, preserve and *enhance* existing public paths'. Our guest speaker was the writer Paul Kingsnorth on 'the modern inclosures: the corporatisation of place and the fight against it'. We elected Len Clark and Tony (Lord) Greaves as new vice-presidents. Rodney Legg stood down as chairman after 20 years, and Don Lee retired as a trustee after 25. John Ives joined the board. John Willson resigned from the board early in the year, and Diane Andrewes in September, while Pete Turtill did not put his name forward for re-election.

The new board of trustees elected Jackie Warr as chairman and Phil Wadey as vice-chairman. Earlier in the year we had sought a new treasurer and were delighted when Jonathan Crossman volunteered to advise and assist us, though not as a formal treasurer or board member.

In the knowledge that Rodney Legg would stand down as our appointee on the National Trust Council after 20 years, we advertised in *Open Space* for a replacement, interviewed applicants and were pleased to appoint Beverley Penney to the role.

The office manager, Ruth Walker, led the development of the new website: it was launched in March. We issued an unprecedented 107 press releases which gave further publicity to our concerns. We published three issues of our

magazine *Open Space*. Members and staff were interviewed on one television programme and 26 radio programmes.

On 31 December, membership stood at 2370. We welcomed 237 new members during the year, a real loss of 26, although the nominal loss is greater because we carried out an overdue exercise of lapsing unpaid members.

We were delighted to welcome Mark Taylor as financial administrator to replace Moira Holloway whom we were sad to lose. We warmly thank all our staff, Kate Ashbrook, Nicola Hodgson, Julie Jiggens, Mark Taylor and Ruth Walker, for their commitment and hard work.

Financial review

Financial operations

Our finance subcommittee met a few weeks before each board meeting to review the society's financial position and bring forward recommendations on financial operations for board approval.

It continues to be the case that the society's regular income does not cover our regular expenditure and that the society has sufficient cash reserves to cover our operating deficit. The budget-setting process in September recognised this situation and established parameters to enable the board to assess any proposed deficit against the current and expected available reserves before giving its approval at its December meeting. The agreed operating deficit for 2010 is a significant reduction on that approved for 2009.

Legacies received in 2009

John Clark
David Culver-Williams
Jean Mathews
Edwin Walker
James Young

Meanwhile, during the year we have undertaken fund-raising initiatives, including applications to trusts and the lottery, and we are extremely grateful to have received a number of legacies and donations.

Reserves policy

The trustees, at their December meeting, agreed that, to address our concerns with variable legacy income, we introduce a four-year rolling reserves policy, to give ourselves ample time to respond to upward and downward trends in legacy income.

General fund: the board of trustees' policy is to maintain this fund in the range of 1-1.5 times the society's expected level of normal annual expenditure.

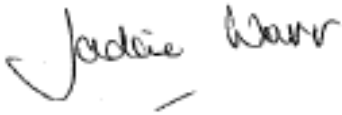
Capital reserve fund: this fund is to be invested, either in investments or property, for the longer-term benefit of the society, but remains available to the board of trustees for transfer back to the general fund in case of need.

Plans for future periods

The society has adopted a strategic plan for the five years to 2013, and in 2010 will carry out a mid-term review

We continue to need to secure sufficient income to fund the society's activities and, to this end, we encourage all our members and supporters to join us in any initiatives announced over the coming year.

Signed



Jackie Warr (chairman, on behalf of the trustees)

Our representatives on national and regional bodies at 31 March 2010

British Standards Institution Standards Technical Committee	Chris Beney
Campaign for National Parks	Kate Ashbrook
Countryside Council for Wales Access Forum	David Bateman
Chilterns Conservation Board Commons Network	Nicola Hodgson
Defence Estates, Access and Recreation Focus Group	Kate Ashbrook
Defra's National Common Land Stakeholder Group	Nicola Hodgson
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Nigel Ley
Hampstead Heath Management Committee (joint representative with the Ramblers)	Maija Roberts
London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies	Mark Green
London Green Belt Council	Chris Beney
National Forest Access and Recreation Working Group	Chris Peat
National Trust council (appointee)	Beverley Penney
Parliamentary agents	Paul Clayden David Robbins
Ramblers' general council	Jackie Warr
Rights of Way Review Committee	Kate Ashbrook Chris Beney
Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board	Kate Ashbrook
Wales Wildlife and Countryside Link	David Bateman
West Midlands Regional Rural Development Consultation Group	Edgar Powell
Wildlife and Countryside Link and its policy directors' group	Kate Ashbrook Nicola Hodgson

COMMONS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2009

		note	2009	*2008*
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	*1(e)*	*2*	8,521	*11,687*
Investments		*3*	118,221	*108,573*
			126,742	*120,260*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		*4*	35,899	*1,894*
Building society deposits		*5*	443,930	*189,329*
Cash in hand			6,194	*12,678*
			486,023	*203,901*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		*6*	6,272	*3,184*
NET CURRENT ASSETS			479,751	*200,717*
NET ASSETS			606,493	*320,977*
REPRESENTED BY:				
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund			331,594	*52,763*
Capital reserve fund			225,000	*225,000*
			556,594	*277,763*
Restricted fund:				
Creech Jones fund			30,703	*26,445*
Endowment fund				
Buxton fund			19,196	*16,768*
		7	606,493	*320,977*

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 20 April 2010
Chairman: Jackie Warr
Vice-chairman: Phil Wadey

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE COMMONS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2009.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner
As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3)(a) of the Act and to follow the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

N M Smith ACA,CTA
Villars Hayward, Chartered Accountants, Boston House, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1DY
23 April 2010

COMMONS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2009

	note	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Endowment funds*	*Total funds* 2009	*Total funds* ***2008***
		7	7	7		
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income:	*1(c)*					
Subscriptions		92,393			92,393	*59,364*
Donations		73,119			73,119	*16,119*
Appeals		37,030			37,030	*26,022*
Legacies		267,386			267,386	*19,000*
Activities for generating funds:						
Investment income	*1(c)*	5,135	1,680	958	7,773	*17,192*
Sale of publications etc	*10*	7,129			7,129	*7,071*
Grants received		0			0	0
Realised gain on disposal of investment		0			0	0
Total incoming resources		482,192	1,680	958	484,830	*144,768*
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds						
Other publication costs		88			88	*354*
Charitable Activities						
Staff costs	*11*	132,115			132,115	*125,792*
Premises costs	*12*	14,185			14,185	*19,648*
Administration costs	*13*	25,564			25,564	*26,666*
Local correspondents		1,320			1,320	*3,274*
Open Space *and web site*		10,841			10,841	*9,799*
Other costs	*14*	19,639			19,639	*19,376*
Governance costs						
Independent Examiner		1,553			1,553	*2,028*
AGM and trustees		2,890			2,890	*4,403*
Professional fees		766			766	*2,350*
Total resources expended		208,961	0	0	208,961	*213,690*
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		273,231	1,680	958	275,869	*-68,922*
Transfers between funds		0		0	0	*0*
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before other recognised gains		273,231	1,680	958	275,869	*-68,922*
Other recognised gains						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	*15*	5,600	2,578	1,470	9,648	*-51,672*
Net movement in funds		278,831	4,258	2,428	285,517	*-120,594*
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		277,763	26,445	16,768	320,977	*441,570*
Total funds carried forward	*7*	556,594	30,703	19,196	606,494	320,977

COMMONS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Notes to the financial statements

1 **Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

(a) **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

(b) **Fund accounting**

(a) ***General fund*** - This is an unrestricted fund which is used to defray the normal expenses of the society.

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain this fund in the range of 1 -1 1/2 times the society's expected normal annual expenditure level. The trustees are aware that the fund has not met this requirement and will endeavour to address this in the coming year.

(b) Capital reserve fund - This is an unrestricted fund derived from allocations from the general fund. This fund is to be invested, either in investments or property, for the longer-term benefit of the society, but remains available to the trustees for transfer back to the general fund in case of need.

(c) Creech Jones fund - The income from this restricted fund may be used for the objects of the society that would not normally be met from the general fund.

(d) Buxton fund - The income from this fund is transferred to the society's general fund.

(c) **Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

– Voluntary income received by way of subscriptions, donations, appeals and legacies is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.
– The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these financial statements.
– Investment income is included when receivable.

(d) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

– Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them
– Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and includes the independent examiner's fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

(e) **Fixed assets**

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a reducing balance method at the following rates:

Office equipment	15%
Computer equipment	33.33%

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

2 **Tangible fixed assets**

	Office equipment	Computer equipment	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2009	10,664	27,199	37,863
Additions	0	103	103
Disposals	0	-737	-737
At 31 December 2009	10,664	26,565	37,229
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2009	7,027	19,149	26,176
Charge for the year	546	2,721	3,267
Disposals	0	-735	-735
At 31 December 2009	7,573	21,135	28,708
Net book value at 31 December 2009	3,091	5,430	8,521
Net book value at 31 December 2008	*3,637*	*8,050*	*11,687*

3 **Investments**

	2009	*2008*
Quoted Securities and Unit Trusts	118,221	*108,573*

All investments were held within the United Kingdom.

4 **Debtors**

*Gift aid	35,000	*755*
Law reviews	0	*144*
Professional indemnity insurance prepaid	717	*945*
Management of Bradbury Bequest	50	*50*
KA Pension	132	*0*
	35,899	*1,894*

*The Gift Aid figure represents the estimated sum due from HMRC with respect to 2005-2009 which has been taken into the 2009 accounts but which is being claimed and expected to be paid in 2010

5 **Building society deposits**

Abbey Bond / CAF Gold A/c	443,930	*189,239*

6 **Creditors**

Trade creditors	1,453	*1,684*
Accruals	1,500	*1,500*
HMRC	3,319	*0*
	6,272	*3,184*

7 **Analysis of Funds**

	Opening balance	*Net income/ (outgoings)*	*Transfers*	*Investment gains/(losses)*	*Closing balance*
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	52,763	273,231	0	5,600	331,594
Capital reserve fund	225,000				225,000
Restricted funds					
Creech Jones fund	26,445	1,680	0	2,578	30,703
Endowment					
Buxton fund	16,768	958	0	1,470	19,196
	320,976	275,869	0	9,648	606,493

8 **Bradbury bequest** - the society acts as trustee for the Bradbury bequest, the income from which may be used for the erection of public footpath signs within a six-mile radius of the Cheltenham general post office. This fund is not included in the society's assets. Movements during the year:

	2009	2008
At 1 January 2009	8,563	*8,324*
Interest received	23	*262*
Outgoings	-50	*-50*
At 31 December 2009	8,509	*8,536*

9 **Parliament Piece** - The society owns this land in Kenilworth which is leased, under a 99-year lease, to Warwick District Council and managed locally. No value has been placed on this land in these accounts.

10 **Activities for generating funds**

Sale of publications	3,933	*6,778*
Other	3,196	*293*
	7,129	*7,071*

11	**Staff costs** comprise:	2009	*2008*
	Gross wages	117,158	*111,931*
	Employer's NI	11,282	*10,501*
	Pensions	3,328	*2,932*
	Recruitment costs	422	*0*
	Online incentive	-75	*-100*
	Other staff costs	0	*528*
		132,115	*125,792*

Employees with emoluments exceeding the Charity Commission reporting threshold of £60,000: Nil
Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year - four (*four in 2008*).

12	**Premises costs** comprise:		
	Rent	7,800	*7,700*
	Rates and water	747	*723*
	Light and heat	1,421	*1,135*
	Insurance	988	*1,040*
	Cleaning	1,063	*1,077*
	Consumables	200	*235*
	Repairs and maintenance	471	*1,810*
	Depreciation of furniture and equipment	546	*642*
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2	*0*
	Other	947	*5,287*
		14,185	*19,649*

13	**Administration costs** comprise:		
	Postage, telephone and stationery	7,529	*8,156*
	Printing and photocopying	3,152	*4,514*
	Costs of appeals for funding	2,922	*1,812*
	I T costs	3,292	*3,620*
	Depreciation of computer equipment	2,721	*4,024*
	Professional indemnity insurance	945	*1,026*
	Travel and subsistence	3,960	*2,920*
	Other	1,043	*594*
		25,564	*26,666*

14	**Other costs** comprise:		
	Subscriptions and donations	3,217	*3,579*
	Payments from the Creech Jones fund	0	*1,700*
	Professional fees	288	*10,000*
	2008 Post b/s event re Gen Sec	12,837	*0*
	Books and maps	1,633	*1,508*
	Conferences and training	1,664	*2,588*
	Marketing	0	*0*
		19,639	*19,375*

15	**Gains / (losses) on revaluation of investments**		
	Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments	9,648	*-51,672*

16 **Remuneration of trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration (*2008 - nil*).
An aggregate of £1,262 (*2008 - £2,542*) was reimbursed to nine (*2008 - ten*) trustees for expenses incurred in relation to the society's activities, including attending meetings and/or acting as local correspondents.

The Open Spaces Society's board of trustees appoints individual members of the society, known as local correspondents, to represent the society in certain local-authority areas. They are listed below.

Local correspondents at 31 March 2010

England		
Bath and North East Somerset	John Ives	01275 543198
Bournemouth B	Harry and Aimée Alexander	01202 700085
Bristol C	Chris Bloor	0117 962 4088
County Durham former Teesdale D and Wear Valley D	Jo Bird	01833 637756
Coventry C	Leslie Menzler	0121 429 9652
Cumbria, Carlisle C	Ken West	01228 712059
Gloucestershire Cotswold D	Gerry Stewart	01242 620598
Greater Manchester	Donald Lee	01491 573535
Hampshire	Dave Ramm	01189 692878
Herefordshire East	Edgar Powell	01905 351670
Herefordshire Hereford City, South Herefordshire D (former)	Owen Morgan	01989 770302
Herefordshire Leominster D (former)	Peter Newman	01544 231161
Herts Hertsmere B, Three Rivers D	Chris Beney	01923 211113
Kent Ashford B, Canterbury C, Dover D, Shepway D, Thanet D	Graham Wanstall	01304 242493
Kent Dartford B, Gravesham B	Pat Luxford	01474 812595
London Bromley B, Croydon B, Lambeth B, Lewisham B, Southwark B	Mark Green	020 8653 2588
London Hillingdon B	David Williams	01895 271459
London remainder	Bernard Selwyn	020 7370 0854
Medway	Pat Wilson	01634 831887
Norfolk Breckland D, Broadland D, King's Lynn & West Norfolk B, North Norfolk D	Ian Witham	01692 650530
North Somerset	John Ives	01275 543198
Oxfordshire	Chris Hall	01491 638396
Poole B	Harry and Aimée Alexander	01202 700085
Shropshire	Harry Scott	01543 274805
Solihull B	Leslie Menzler	0121 429 9652
Somerset South Somerset D	Peter Kidner	01460 240401
Somerset Taunton Deane B	Paul Partington	01823 432119
Southampton C	Jack Candy	02380 790834
South Gloucestershire	Chris Bloor	0117 962 4088
Staffordshire	Harry Scott	01543 274805
Stoke-on-Trent C	Harry Scott	01543 274805
Suffolk Mid Suffolk D, Suffolk Coastal D	Bob Philpot	01473 658619
Surrey Elmbridge B	Rodney Whittaker	020 8398 4822
Surrey Guildford B, Surrey Heath D	Bob Milton	01252 714426
Surrey Waverley B	Ralph Holmes	01483 272003
Telford and Wrekin	Harry Scott	01543 274805
Warwickshire (Wildlife & Countryside Act orders only)	Leslie Menzler	0121 429 9652
Worcestershire Malvern Hills D, Worcester C, Wychavon D	Edgar Powell	01905 351670
Wales		
Caerphilly	Maggie Thomas	01495 273057
Monmouthshire	Owen Morgan	01989 770302

B = borough, C= city, D = district

Open Spaces Society

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Highlights of 2009

During the year we

- held a members' open day at Aldbury, Hertfordshire to mark the general secretary's 25 years in post
- welcomed the Marine and Coastal Access Act which provides for public access right round the English coast
- celebrated the confirmation of the South Downs National Park
- launched our new website
- helped our members protect 359 commons, greens, open spaces and paths under threat of loss, and local correspondents helped many more
- assisted members with queries about the registration of 143 greens
- issued 107 press releases to publicise our concerns
- welcomed 237 new individuals, organisations and councils to the society

Annual General Meeting 2010

The Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 July at 11.00 am at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Membership rates from 1 January 2009

Individuals: ordinary £37 new, £30 renewal; joint ordinary £52 new, £45 renewal; concessionary £22 new, £15 renewal; life £600.
Local organisations: parish, town and community councils: £52 new, £40 renewal.
National organisations; district and borough councils: £150.
County councils and unitary authorities: £350.

The front-cover illustration is 'On the common' by Michael Edwards, tel: 07979 497907.

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