THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY
Vice-presidents, officers, trustees and staff
31 December 2015

Vice-presidents
David (Lord) Clark
Len Clark
Mike Clarke
Paul Clayden
Roger de Freitas
Tony (Lord) Greaves
Richard Mabey
Edgar Powell
Ronald Smith

Chairman
Graham Bathe (F) (G) (L)

Vice-chairman
Phil Wadey (G) (L)

Treasurer
Steve Warr (F)

Trustees
Diane Andrewes
Chris Beney (F)
Tim Crowther (F) (G)
John Lavery (L)
Peter Newman (G) (L)

F = member finance committee
G = member general purposes committee
L = member legal subcommittee

Staff
General secretary
Kate Ashbrook
Case officer
Nicola Hodgson
Financial administrator and company secretary
Mark Taylor (to March 2015)
Trevor Quantrill (from March 2015)
Office manager
Ellen Froggatt
Office assistant
Christine Hunter

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. Henmans LLP, 5000 Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2BH
Surveyor: Sverage Greaves Ltd, 9 St Mary’s Street, Wallingford OX10 0EL
Open Spaces Society
Trustees’ Report for 2015

Reference and administrative information

Registered charity name and number
The Open Spaces Society, registered number 1144840.

Principal and registered office
25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames 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

Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, the memorandum and articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is the successor to the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (registered charity number 214753), which was established by a trust deed dated 6 December 1963, having been originally founded in 1865. It was registered as a company on 14 November 2011.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
Trustees are appointed by the members of the company, in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association.

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 be 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 2011 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 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
The objects of the society are 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 local correspondents who can make site visits where problems arise and submit appropriate representations regarding, for example, proposed changes to the public-path network. The society also secures the registering of new village greens and resists 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 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the National Assembly for Wales (NAW), the National Trust, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales acknowledge the society’s primacy in this area. The society is a statutory consultee for applications for works on common land and for changes to public rights of way.

We are grateful to the following trusts and funds for donations and grants
Dennis Curry Charitable Trust, Gatliff Trust, JHF Green Trust, Millennium Oak Trust.

It also endeavours to improve the law for the benefit of the public. By challenging unacceptable proposals—through the courts if necessary—and more generally by seeking media attention and lobbying parliament and local authorities, it protects places of beauty and interest and achieves better public access throughout England and Wales.
Achievements and performance, delivery of public benefit

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

1. To protect commons, greens and other open spaces
Our general secretary and case officer provided training for managers of commons, local authorities and organisations, and visited commons in England and Wales to look at issues concerning management, grazing and fencing. We were delighted to receive the gift of a right of estovers on St Clement’s Common in Norfolk.

Our general secretary attended the global conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, in Edmonton, Canada where she promoted collective action among participants.

The society responded to calls from members for advice on protection and management of at least 171 commons, 100 registered greens and 199 other open spaces. Many more cases and disputes came to us from consultations from official bodies, or were dealt with by our local correspondents.

Applicants for works on, or exchange of, common land notified us of 93 cases. We raised objections to 24 of them.

Of the 85 statutory applications for works which were determined during the year, nine were rejected following our advice. These were a garage at Helston in Cornwall, camping pods and access track at Blawith and Newbiggin, Cumbria, respectively; land exchange at Barmby Moor, East Yorkshire; an ice rink and land exchange at Haven Green in the London Borough of Ealing; a car-park on Hackney Marshes, London Borough of Hackney; exchange of land for flood works on Upper Ham Common, Worcestershire, and wind turbines on Mynydd y Gwair, Swansea. Eleven applications were approved despite our objections, including fencing on Farleton Knott Common, Cumbria, and land exchange for a cycle track on Beverley Westwood, East Yorkshire.

We were pleased when United Utilities withdrew its controversial application for six miles of fencing on commons above Thirlmere in the Lake District, shortly before a public inquiry was to be held. We had objected, not least because we considered the application was in conflict with legislation, which we had won in 1879, which require the commons to be kept open for public access. An egregious fencing plan on Yateley Common, Hampshire, was also withdrawn in the face of objections.

Our case officer remained active on Defra’s National Common Land Stakeholder Group and Landscape and Access Group, the Chilterns Conservation Board’s Commons Network, and various Wildlife and Countryside Link working parties. She participated in two events hosted by Natural England and Newcastle University to discuss the concept of new commons.

We were sorry that our member Newhaven Town Council lost its case in the
supreme court regarding the registration of West Beach as a village green. We were also dismayed that the Welsh Government approved the exchange of common land for the Circuit of Wales motorsport development in Blaenau Gwent, south Wales; we opposed this at a public inquiry arguing that much of the replacement land was already available for public access.

We supported a proposal from Defra to create a commons council for Bodmin Moor in Cornwall and were pleased when this was confirmed. We joined with the Foundation for Common Land and other organisations in developing a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to achieve better outcomes, in everyone’s interests, on upland commons in England.

Our appeal to members for support in our work to claim lost commons under part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 raised £8,203.

2. **To protect and enhance public rights of way and public access**

The office dealt with 157 requests for advice on paths and our local correspondents dealt with a large number of statutory path-consultations and in many cases participated in public inquiries.

We continued to work with other members of the stakeholder working group on unrecorded ways, and were pleased that clauses based on that group’s recommendations remained unamended when the Deregulation Act 2015 received royal assent in March. With the definitive-map cut-off date now only ten years away, our local correspondents and other members attended training run by our vice-chairman Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks on how to research and record paths for the definitive map.

### Legal fund

We made pledges and donations from our legal fund to help our members protect their paths and spaces.

- **Legal advice to prevent footpath closure**
  - at Long Rock railway crossing (unsuccessful) £750
- **Village green claim at Saltash, Cornwall (ongoing)** £1,000
- **Application to record public path across River Thame, Oxfordshire, legal advice and assistance (ongoing)** £1,800

Our local correspondent Ian Witham saved footpath 3 at Lyng in Norfolk from diversion, and we helped our member Margaret Duignan to prevent Godstone footpath 140B in Surrey from being diverted, and the Wenvoe Residents’ Action Group from losing the scenic route of Wenvoe footpath 21 in the Vale of Glamorgan. Unfortunately we could not persuade Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council to open the Thames Path National Trail alongside the river in Maidenhead; instead it opted for a dangerous route next to a rat-run road some distance away.

Our general secretary spoke at a rally organised by the Friends of Panshanger Park in Hertfordshire, calling for greater public access there.

We responded robustly to a green paper on recreation and access from the Welsh Government, welcoming plans for greater public access but not at the expense of the public-path network.
3. **To secure the creation of new public paths and open spaces**

We won our campaign to persuade the Welsh Government to retain the laws which protect village greens. The government had intended to introduce measures in the Planning (Wales) Act to outlaw registration of greens when land was threatened with development, but Assembly Members rejected this and the act now only prevents registration once planning permission has been granted, not when it has been sought.

We advised more than 192 members and other inquirers about claiming greens and celebrated our members’ successes in registering new greens at The Leaze, Nympsfield, Gloucestershire; Oval Green, Lockerley, Hampshire; Ramsgate in Kent (voluntary); Moorside Fields, Lancashire; Humpty Hill, Faringdon, Oxfordshire and Castle Acre Green, Norton, Swansea.

We produced a toolkit for local authorities and communities in England, advising them on how to designate Local Green Space and list Community Assets.

4. **To protect the beauty of the countryside**

We objected to plans by the Lake District National Park Authority to sell some of its land, including Stickle Tarn, and were pleased when many of these proposed sales were withdrawn. We celebrated the long-awaited decision from Defra to extend the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks to embrace splendid countryside, including many commons.

We were relieved when planning applications for wind turbines on common land at Rooley Moor, Rochdale, and Kirkby Moor, Cumbria, were rejected.

We opposed a number of other wind turbines, solar panels, masts and excrescences where they would have an adverse effect on people’s enjoyment of paths and open spaces, for example extension of mining followed by development on common land at East Pit, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen at Neath Port Talbot; and solar farms close to public paths at Dalton in Cumbria, Agden in Cheshire West and Chester, and Lepe in the New Forest National Park in Hampshire.

**Organisational management**

We celebrated our 150th anniversary year in many ways. We published two books: *Saving Open Spaces* by Kate Ashbrook and *Common Land* by Graham Bathe. With Warwick District Council, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and others we marked with a photo opportunity the installation of a new notice-board on our land at Parliament Piece in Kenilworth. We gave talks to allied organisations and ran a photo competition which attracted nearly 2,000 entries. We had an open day for our members, hosted by the City of London Corporation, on Ashtead Common in Surrey. And we broadcast a ‘tweet of the day’ to celebrate 365 events in our history.

Our appeal to fund our work beyond our anniversary had already raised £9,757 including gift aid by the year’s end.

We ended the year with 33 local correspondents. Barry Thomas and Maggie Thomas both kindly extended their territories; we were sorry to lose John Bainbridge and Ken West, both in Cumbria. We thank all our correspondents for their invaluable work.
We mourned the death of Derek Smith, our former local correspondent for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Our financial administrator and company secretary Mark Taylor retired in March and we were sad to see him go. We appointed Trevor Quantrill in his place.

We held our annual general meeting in July in London. Our vice-president Paul Clayden took the chair. Rachel Sanderson, then commons project officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board, was our guest speaker. There were no changes in membership of the board of trustees.

In November, we were delighted that our general secretary won the Great Outdoors magazine’s Outdoor Personality of the Year Award.

We continued to work on increasing our membership and deterring people from lapsing, and further developed our website and social media promotion. We shall be investing further in membership development next year.

We issued 106 press releases which gave further publicity to our concerns. We published three issues of our magazine Open Space. Members, staff and local correspondents were interviewed at least 25 times on the radio and three times on television.

On 31 December, membership stood at 1967, a net increase of 16. We welcomed 194 new members. 15 members died during the year and a further 163 memberships lapsed.

Our dedicated staff, Kate Ashbrook, Ellen Froggatt, Nicola Hodgson, Christine Hunter and Trevor Quantrill, have had a busy year. We thank them warmly for their commitment and success in furthering the work of the society.

Financial review

Financial operations
Despite the harsh economic climate we continued to be financially well-supported by members and non-members during the year in which we celebrated our 150th anniversary. We received a significant increase in donations, and our appeals, especially the 150th-anniversary appeal, received very good support. We are grateful to all the members and non-members whose support allows us to continue the work of the society.

We remain tremendously grateful to those members and supporters who generously leave gifts to the society in their wills. Legacies more than plug the gap between the cost of supporting our charitable objectives and the funds that we can raise through subscriptions, donations and appeals. They help us to finish another year with a stronger financial position than we started.

It is pleasing that our membership numbers increased slightly in 2015 after two years of reductions. There has been a net increase in individual members, which
we feel flows from the action we have been taking to increase the public awareness of our activities. As a consequence, when we set our budget for 2016, we decided to continue our spending in this area.

In the last year we have seen an increase in requests from members for help with case work (particularly relating to the registration of village greens). We have responded to this by allocating more resources to provide advice and to support casework in the coming year.

Despite the increase in member numbers, subscription income in 2015 is down £5,809 on 2014, primarily because we account for subscriptions when they are received, not when renewal is due.

Finally, members may identify some small changes in the presentation of the accounts this year. These result from revisions to the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities, which apply for the first time to this set of accounts.

**Reserves policy**

Strategic reserve fund: it is the policy of the trustees to maintain a strategic reserve fund sufficient to cover the net outgoings of the society for the next 48 months and to allow for an orderly closure of the society thereafter, should it become necessary. In line with this policy we have increased the value of the strategic reserve fund to £662,520 at 31 December 2015. In part this reflects the likely increase in costs from our additional support for casework and promotion of the public awareness of our activities. The fund is invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to transfer back to the general fund in case of need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legacies received in 2015</th>
<th>John Riddall</th>
<th>Pamela Russell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Bridges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Drake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Colin Stoner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thelma Coates</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marjorie Tompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thelma Leech</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Wilcox</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

The society remains effective and strong, with a good grip on its finances, even in these austere times when membership recruitment is challenging. We have an unfailing proud legacy, celebrated in our 150th anniversary year, and founded on the irrepressible drive of staff and volunteers. We remain confident and optimistic that we are able to meet ongoing needs within the current evolving financial and political environment.

Signed

Graham Bathe (chairman, on behalf of the trustees)
I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 set out on pages nine to sixteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The Charity is required by law to prepare accrued financial statements and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

– examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
– follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
– state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners’ 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
– to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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 LLP
Chartered Accountants,
Registered Auditors and
Chartered Tax Advisers
Boston House
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 1DY

Date: 15 April 2016
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure Account)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Endowment funds</th>
<th>Total funds 2015</th>
<th>Total funds 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income resources

**Income and endowments from:**
- Charitable activities:
- Other trading activities:

**Total Income resources:** 300,888 (2015), 293,272 (2014)

### Expenditure on:

**Raising funds:**
- Other publications costs: 11,947 (2015), 404 (2014)

**Charitable activities:**
- Staff costs: 143,637 (2015), 140,252 (2014)
- Premises costs: 14,649 (2015), 14,888 (2014)
- Open Space and website: 10,179 (2015), 8,178 (2014)

**Total Expenditure:** 244,681 (2015), 246,658 (2014)

**Net income/(expenditure):** 56,207 (2015), 46,614 (2014)

### Transfers between funds

- -

### Other recognised gains and losses

Gains/(losses) on investment assets: (965) (2015), (264) (2014)

**Total other recognised gains and losses:** 55,242 (2015), 46,350 (2014)

### RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:

**Total funds brought forward:** 741,601 (2015), 808,131 (2014)

**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD:** 796,843 (2015), 863,174 (2014)
## Balance Sheet

**as at 31 December 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>387,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>387,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed and short term deposits</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>470,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>485,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(9,558)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets/(liabilities)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>475,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>863,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The funds of the charity:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Buxton fund</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>24,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Creech Jones fund</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>42,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>General fund</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>134,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Strategic reserve fund</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>662,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total charity funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>863,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2015.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 March 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

G M Bathe - Chairman

S M Warr - Treasurer
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation for uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16.7.14, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable, and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Legacies

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earliest of:

- the date on which the charity is aware that probate has been granted;
- the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor’s intention to make a distribution.

Other voluntary income

Voluntary income received by way of subscription, donations and appeals is included in the financial statements when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity.

Donated services

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these financial statements.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank

(c) Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on Charitable activities comprise 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 the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examiner’s fees and costs linked to the
strategic management of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(d) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided so as to write off the asset over three years.

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.

(e) Fund Accounting

**General fund** - This is an unrestricted fund which is to be invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to be used for the objects of the society or for making allocations to the Strategic Reserve fund. Within the General fund is an amount of £16,240 (principal of £13,500 plus related Gift Aid of £2,740) set aside for legal support for members.

**Strategic Reserve fund** - This is an unrestricted fund derived from allocations from the General fund. It is the policy of the trustees to keep 48 months’ reserve in this fund, so that it should hold sufficient to cover the society’s following 48 months’ net outgoings, and to allow for an orderly closure of the society thereafter, should this become necessary. In line with this policy, the fund stood at £662,520 at 31 December 2015. This fund is to be invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to transfer back to the General fund in case of need.

**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.

**Buxton fund** - The income from this fund is transferred to the society’s General fund.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£27,130</td>
<td>£11,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>£133,919</td>
<td>£145,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£161,049</td>
<td>£156,966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. APPEALS AND GIFT AID

Funds raised by appeals over the year also generated related income via Gift Aid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Gift Aid</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threatened Greens</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150th Anniversary</td>
<td>13,945</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>15,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Commons</td>
<td>6,992</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>8,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What comes now?</td>
<td>8,187</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td>9,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29,224</td>
<td>4,131</td>
<td>33,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales of publications</td>
<td>£3,180</td>
<td>£1,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special projects and training</td>
<td>£2,311</td>
<td>£2,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and awards</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts, royalties, commission</td>
<td>£200</td>
<td>£2,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£7,691</td>
<td>£8,032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

#### 5. INVESTMENT INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listed investments</td>
<td>18,638</td>
<td>17,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash investments</td>
<td>4,890</td>
<td>3,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,528</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,571</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 6. STAFF COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross salaries</td>
<td>126,913</td>
<td>126,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer’s National Insurance</td>
<td>9,928</td>
<td>10,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension contributions</td>
<td>5,764</td>
<td>3,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment costs</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary staff costs</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total staff costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,637</strong></td>
<td><strong>140,252</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employees with emoluments exceeding the Charity Commission reporting threshold of £60,000: Nil (2014: Nil)

The average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year was four (2014 - four)

#### 7. PREMISES COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates and water</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light and heat</td>
<td>1,381</td>
<td>1,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>1,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumables</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,435</td>
<td>1,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,649</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,888</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 8. ADMINISTRATION COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postage, telephone and stationery</td>
<td>9,152</td>
<td>8,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and photocopying</td>
<td>3,749</td>
<td>4,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of appeals for funding</td>
<td>4,095</td>
<td>3,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT costs</td>
<td>4,121</td>
<td>3,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of computer equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional indemnity insurance</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and subsistence</td>
<td>3,486</td>
<td>3,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,483</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,646</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. OTHER COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions and donations</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>9,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Space Award</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Correspondents' weekend</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees - Marketing</td>
<td>16,413</td>
<td>26,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy mailing to the Law Society</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire &amp; Blackburn Lost Commons Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliament Piece</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Green Space Campaign</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Costs</td>
<td>2,905</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographic Competition</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and maps</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and training</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29,436</td>
<td>49,347</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent examiner’s fees</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>2,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM and trustees</td>
<td>4,780</td>
<td>4,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,908</td>
<td>7,264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENT ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments</td>
<td>(1,164)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opening Balance</th>
<th>Net Income/ (Outgoings)</th>
<th>Transfers</th>
<th>Investment Gains/(losses)</th>
<th>Closing Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
<td>355,251</td>
<td>56,207</td>
<td>(276,170)</td>
<td>(965)</td>
<td>134,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic reserve fund</td>
<td>386,350</td>
<td></td>
<td>276,170</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>662,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Restricted funds**     |                 |                         |           |                          |                 |
| Creech Jones fund        | 42,369          |                         | -         | -                        | 42,242          |

| **Endowment funds**      |                 |                         |           |                          |                 |
| Buxton fund              | 24,161          |                         | -         | (72)                    | 24,089          |
| **Total**                | 808,131         | 56,207                  | -         | (1,164)                 | 863,174         |
Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Office Equipment</th>
<th>Computer Equipment</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>9,687</td>
<td>25,027</td>
<td>34,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2015</strong></td>
<td>9,687</td>
<td>25,027</td>
<td>34,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPRECIATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>9,687</td>
<td>25,027</td>
<td>34,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2015</strong></td>
<td>9,687</td>
<td>25,027</td>
<td>34,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net book value at 31 December 2015</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net book value at 31 December 2014</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AT MARKET VALUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quoted Securities and Unit Trusts</td>
<td>388,477</td>
<td>388,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment gains (losses)</td>
<td>(1,164)</td>
<td>(264)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>387,313</strong></td>
<td>388,477</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were no investment assets outside the UK. The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Charity.

The historical cost of the above investments at 31 December 2015 is £204,221 (2014: £204,221).

15. DEBTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>3,563</td>
<td>4,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional indemnity insurance prepaid</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debtors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4,554</strong></td>
<td>5,510</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

16. FIXED AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAF Gold Account</td>
<td>163,818</td>
<td>101,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAF 30 Day Notice</td>
<td>129,245</td>
<td>128,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIB (GB) Fixed Term Deposit</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santander Business Bond</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS&amp;I 5 Year Index Linked Certificate</td>
<td>16,980</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldermore Bank Bond</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>470,043</td>
<td>414,873</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>31.12.15</th>
<th>31.12.14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade creditors</td>
<td>3,071</td>
<td>4,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>1,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other taxes and social security costs</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>1,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,558</td>
<td>8,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. 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 financial statements.

19. REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES

None of the trustees received any remuneration (2014 - nil).
An aggregate of £1,101 (2014 - £1,197) was reimbursed to three (2014 - five) 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 trustees appoint 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 30 April 2016**

### England

**Bath and North East Somerset**
- Chris Bloor
  - chris.bloor@oss.org.uk
- Brian Cowling
  - 01234 364951
- Harry and Aimée Alexander
  - harryalexander@outlook.com

**Bedford Borough**
- Chris Smith
  - cs@hbhelp.co.uk
- Chris Bloor
  - chris.bloor@oss.org.uk

**Bournemouth**
- Harry and Aimée Alexander

**Brighton & Hove City**
- Chris Smith
  - cs@hbhelp.co.uk

**Bristol**
- John Hall
  - johnhall607@oss.org.uk

**County Durham**
- Jo Bird
  - county@oss.org.uk

**Coventry**
- Barry Thomas
  - histman@gmail.com

**Derbyshire**
- Ralph Holmes
  - ralphcholmes@gmail.com

**Dorset**
- Brendan Clegg
  - brendancegg@gmail.com
- Chris Smith
  - cs@hbhelp.co.uk

**East Sussex**
- Dave Ram
  - daveramm@hotmail.co.uk

**Essex**
- Dave Ram
  - daveramm@hotmail.co.uk

**Gloucestershire**
- Gerry Stewart
  - gerry.stewart@oss.org.uk

**Hampshire**
- Owen Morgan
  - 01989 770302

**Herefordshire**
- Lucy Jordan
  - lucy.jordan@oss.org.uk

**Herts**
- Chris Beney
  - 01923 211113

**Kent**
- Graham Wanstall
  - 01304 242493
- Gordon Sencicle
  - jjg@fsmail.net

**Leicestershire**
- Peter Newman
  - footpaths@castlehillbooks.co.uk

**Leeds**
- Jerry Pearlman
  - 01732 847415

**Leicestershire**
- David Hogg
  - david.hogg@oss.org.uk

**London**
- Maggie Coleman
  - maggie@oss.org.uk

**Medway**
- Peter Newman
  - footpaths@castlehillbooks.co.uk

**Norfolk**
- Ian Witham
  - ianwitham@oss.org.uk

**Oxfordshire**
- Chris Hall
  - myleshall@aol.com
- Harry and Aimée Alexander

**Poole**
- Harry Scott
  - harrywscott@oss.org.uk

**Shropshire**
- Peter Kidner
  - sosspjkb@btinternet.com

**Somerset**
- Paul Partington
  - pwpartington@gmail.com
- Chris Bloor
  - chris.bloor@oss.org.uk

**South Gloucestershire**
- Harry Scott
  - harrywscott@oss.org.uk

**Staffordshire**
- Rodney Whittaker
  - rodney.whittaker@gmail.com

**Stoke-on-Trent**
- Colin Sandford
  - 1colinsandford@gmail.com

**Surrey**
- Bob Milton
  - 07860 718464
- Paul Brown
  - 01342 811866

**Telford and Wrekin**
- Edgar Powell
  - 01905 351670

**Wales**

**Blaenau Gwent**
- Maggie Thomas
  - xkeys maggie@gmail.com

**Caerphilly**
- Maggie Thomas
  - xkeys maggie@gmail.com

**Monmouthshire**
- Owen Morgan
  - 01989 770302

**Rhondda Cynon Taff**
- Jay Kynch
  - jaykynch@oss.org.uk

**Torfaen**
- Maggie Thomas
  - xkeys maggie@gmail.com

**B** = borough, **C** = city, **D** = district
Highlights of 2015

During the year we

• celebrated our 150th anniversary with events, tweets and publicity

• helped our members protect 838 commons, greens, open spaces and paths under threat of loss, and local correspondents helped many more

• won the campaign against the Welsh Planning Bill’s threat to village greens

• accepted a right of common on St Clement’s Common, Norfolk

• ran five training-courses on commons and greens for local councillors, land managers and volunteers

• published two books to mark our 150th anniversary and wrote another

• assisted members with queries about the registration of 192 greens.

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 July at 11.00 am at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Membership rates

_Individuals:_ ordinary £33 or £3 per month; joint ordinary £50; life £660.

_Local organisations; parish, town and community councils:_ £45.

_National organisations; district and borough councils:_ £165.

_County councils and unitary authorities:_ £385.

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