

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



THE THIRTIETH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

will be held on

THURSDAY 15th April 2021 at 6.30pm

by Zoom

If you wish to attend please let the Honorary Secretary, Kim Puttock, know and the email address you will be using to view the Zoom proceedings at: info@aldeandore.org

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association will be held on Thursday 15th April 2021 at 6.30pm by Zoom.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the AGM held on 23 October 2020 by Zoom
 3. Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2020
 4. Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2020
 5. Election of Trustees*
 - a) The following Trustees are due to retire by rotation at the Meeting and offer themselves for re-election:
 - Birgitta Bostrom and
 - Roy Truman
 - b) The following Trustees were appointed by the Committee during the year pending election at the Annual General Meeting and offer themselves for election:
 - Mark Goyder
 - Kim Puttock
- Please see over the page for brief biographies of both candidates.
6. Any other business

Note: Anyone wishing to become a Trustee or nominate a person is invited to get in touch with the Chairman, Alison Andrews (email: aldeblackburn@aol.com). Applications should be made initially to the Chairman who will be able to explain the work of the Committee and responsibilities of Trustees.

It is important to renew Trustee energy and interests whether in planning, marketing, website matters, newsletter publication, organising fun events, commenting on formative government and other policy consultations or a fresh approach. Anyone who wishes to use their particular skills for the benefit of safeguarding the Alde and Ore estuary area and helping provide ways to enjoy it will be welcome. Terms of office run for three years and can be renewed.

Mark Goyder:

Mark Goyder was appointed as a Trustee in January 2021. Since March 2018 he was an active member of the Marketing Group set up by Simon Barrow. Mark is married to a keen sailor on the Alde but gave up sailing after his children complained he was too clumsy to sail with. With 15 years' experience in manufacturing companies, Mark went on to found Tomorrow's Company to inspire and enable business to be a force for good in society following the 1995 RSA Tomorrow's Company Inquiry which he initiated. Its report was the first to make the case that purpose, values and relationships – and not the narrow pursuit of financial objectives - lay at the heart of sustainable business success. In recent years he has concentrated on the issue of board and investor responsibilities for stewardship. In 2019 his book, Entrusted- stewardship for responsible wealth creation - co-authored with Singapore's Ong Boon Hwee was a Financial Times Book of the Month. Among his most recent voluntary activities, he has been Deputy Chair of the Public Service Reform Commission initiated in 2018 by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which set out a vision for the improvement of health and social care in the region. In 2019 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of East Anglia.

Kim Puttock:

Kim Puttock volunteered to become the Honorary Secretary of the Association in November 2020. She has since taken on the role of Membership Secretary and is the Association's Web and Internet Communications Administrator. Kim, a resident of Orford for over two years, had a career in banking before joining the charity sector over 10 years ago. She is currently the Branch Manager for the local branch of the RSPCA covering the Suffolk East and Ipswich areas based in Martlesham. Kim brings with her a wealth of experience covering strategic, financial and operations management and as a result Kim is very familiar with the responsibilities of charities and charity trustees. Kim is also a member of the Chartered Management Institute.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Alde and Ore Association

held at 6pm on Thursday 23rd October 2020 by Zoom

(as corona virus restrictions did not permit meetings where people attended in person)

PRESENT:

Committee Alison Andrews (Chairman and Temporary Honorary Secretary), Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, Colin Chamberlain, Keith Martin, Roy Truman, Simon, Barrow, Monica Allen.

Members: 30 members attended and 10 registered to join but were not seen. List available from Chairman

APOLOGIES Sarah Gammon, John and Diana Grayburn, John Kerr, Andrew McDonald, Bobby Rusack, Angela Sydenham, Johnny Wheeler, Sir John F Wheeler, Bt. and Lady Wheeler, Sarah Zins

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM of the Alde and Ore Association held on Saturday 6th April 2019, with the addition of Chris Gill's name to the list of those in the Marketing Group in Section 5, were approved.

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The Chairman summarised the report. 2019 seemed a long time ago but it was a year which saw making progress with the development of the Estuary Plan into a construction project, the succession from the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership, as the planning work had been completed, to the Alde and Ore Community Partnership to represent the community, The Association dealing with several planning matters, responding to government policy consultations, the good work of the River Defence Committee under Roger Baxter, the Butley Ferry operations and what were our normal range of interesting walks and annual barbecue plus looking at how The Association might widen and deepen its membership.

The Chairman commented that with the delay caused by Covid, her report supplementing the 2019 report now ran for 9 months and said that while a lot has been going on it felt perversely as if much was been pending.

The Association itself had to postpone all proposed walks and barbecue- but hopefully these would take place next year. A Zoom meeting for members to help understanding of what the Sizewell C plans might mean for the estuary the long term had been held. Members were invited to suggest other topics if they liked that form of communication.

Those members on email had received three letters updating on events during the summer.

While it does not make for very exciting reading, the Trustees had been ensuring that the estuary's interests were not overlooked in the many consultations going on and responding to the power company applications- the Association can and does make the case on behalf of its members, and being a body of 2000, it carries

weight, but it was clear, from watching all the new online consultations, that active individual responses were important in re-enforcing the message.

The Association get results. It was good to read that the messages sent about how to achieve resilience in flood defences in last year's consultation on a strategy for flooding and coastal erosion, have emerged in the final government policy documents.

Most recently, the revelation in relation to Scottish Power Renewables plans that there were not just two windfarms but possibly a further six or more may come in through the SPR gateway was a real concern. For The Association, the entry on the coast is the issue: while SPR have looked at coastal processes they do not seem to have realised that the cliff they propose to dig under is extraordinarily fragile.

During the year, there have been several planning applications which, thanks to Keith Martin, had been followed up, including at Iken an application for a new large barn building which has been limited by conditions that it must be for agricultural use. As always Trustees want members to be the eyes and ears and not rely on a single person doing their best to spot applications that need attention. If anyone feels strongly about something affecting the estuary, please let the Association know.

Among the activities this year, the Chairman singled out the Butley Ferry team for special commendation. Despite Covid restrictions, the ferry team, under the indefatigable Trustee, Roy Truman, had made new steps in the river wall, constructed three sturdy resting seats, painted the hut, and cleared the fast growing seaweed off the jetties. They had run the ferry, despite the complications of Covid restrictions, from near the end of July with result that despite having less than half the normal operational days, three quarters of the usual revenue was earned. On top of all this activity a nomination for a Queens Award for Volunteers had been confirmed, actually getting it was the next step, but getting so far, the equivalent of an MBE nomination was a matter of pride in itself.

During the work on widening and deepening the membership, a question which has kept coming up in this context was – “ Why do we have three estuary bodies?” Briefly, it would be easier in one sense to have only one but at present they all do different things and answer to different procedural and customer and legal needs:

- the Alde and Ore Association, set up in 1991, is there to preserve and protect all the estuary for the enjoyment of the public. It is about All aspects of the estuary not just flood defence but planning, other developments affecting it and helping ensure its enjoyment, as through the ferry and walks.
- the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP) was set up by Suffolk Coastal District Council, Estuary Planning Partnership and The Association in 2012, to develop a coherent estuary flood defence plan. It has done that. Now in the next phase, the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP or Partnership), successor to the AOEP, is the guardian of the estuary plan to keep the river walls, and therefore all the life of the river that depends on it, in good heart. It has a key role in communicating to all the communities in the estuary, particularly through the Parish Councils about what is going on.
- the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust (AOET or the Trust) is the estuary's treasury. It was set up by the AOEP as a COI to be a watertight charitable structure to ensure that the raising and use of funds to complete the Estuary Plan could be seen to be on a sound legal footing. It is there to raise funds and provide

these to secure the construction of the river walls and related matters that are needed for the future and to implement the plan.

So briefly The Association---- All aspects: the AOCPlan: and the AOET ---Treasury. The Association works to ensure that there is a great awareness of the beauty of our area and the duty of care we have for it and contributes to the focussed but key functions of the AOCPlan and AOET. We have to think in terms of working together constructively. Members can be assured that The Association played a very central role in getting the estuary plan to a state where it can be implemented.

This year The Association played its part in helping to get the new AOCPlan underway with its changed membership bringing in all local councils, the district and county councils to make it more a community partnership but still including landowners and businesses and The Association, the only organisation encompassing all the estuary.

Apart from the impact of Covid, the feeling of being in suspense also comes because of awaiting the outcome of the application and detailed business case for flood plan approval and grant aid for the first part of the estuary plan, the upper estuary. This was accepted for consideration by the Environment Agency in the summer. It is now well on in the internal processes in EA– hopefully there will be a positive result so that work can start in the coming year but, as with everything, Covid makes processes take longer.

Meanwhile too trustees have been considering how to make the Association more fun for current and wider membership. The Chairman thanked the Marketing and Focus Groups for the time and reflections and ideas given by them and Sarah Ladbury for her excellent facilitation to tease out the issues facing The Association. Simon was reporting on this further in Agenda Item 6.

The Chairman pointed out that The Association was an organisation for all those who love the Alde and Ore and up to now had been entirely run by volunteers. She stressed that the existing band of Trustees was diminishing and those left could not go on indefinitely- indeed for a vibrant organisation, change was needed. Equally there was so much more which could be done, such as engaging with schools, more on wild life, estuary related events but more people were needed to share the load otherwise only the absolute essentials could be done.

Looking to the rest of the year, at the very least the many energy projects, for which the Association's concern are the possible implications for the coastline, will be time consuming. There may be more.

But being positive, the estuary makes a wonderful place to be in and around, so many times in recent months so many people have said, frequently, how lucky we are to live or visit here. It remains very much the case that The Association and its members are the custodians of the wellbeing of the estuary and The Association intends to keep it that way whether its own many activities, keeping a watch for any activity and planning developments which may do no good or need encouraging, being alert to influence any government policies so estuaries are not forgotten, or supporting the AOCPlan and the AOET with fundraising and generally keeping the estuary in good heart for future generations. So please continue to support the Association and indeed come on board as a volunteer so we can continue to have a substantial impact.

Questions:

In response to Michael Flint, Keith Martin explained that as East Coast Council no longer provided regular updates on new planning applications to those who asked, as has been the practice a good number of years ago, he generally looked at the ESC Planning web site every week and followed up ones likely to have an impact on the estuary, discussing them with other Trustees. The Chairman asked members to let the Committee know when they were aware of coming applications as relying on a single person to pick everything up was a tall order.

Nicholas Bridges asked if the Association had responded to a recent planning document by ESC. The Chairman mentioned that only two weeks previously East Suffolk Council had announced its final decision that the revised Shoreline Management Plan Policy for the area just south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower was being changed to Managed Realignment or managed resilience to keep the shingle shore going from the year 2025 to 2100. In response to Nicholas Gold, she confirmed that the policy did not mean that funds would be necessarily be found to do any work as the authorities were not obliged to do anything but said that the fact that the agreed policy was in place meant that, should work need to be done, the issue of whether it was done was an important step further forward, being one of funding not principle. She acknowledged that any shingle needed could come either from Nicolas Gold's land to the south or from another source in the North Sea.

Nicholas Bridges said he had been referring to "Draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document Covering the coast from Holkham in Norfolk to Felixstowe in Suffolk Initial consultation document Consultation dates 4 September 2020 – 16 October 2020". He asked if The Association had said anything about enabling development. The Chairman said that the enquiry was about ensuring planning guidance was up to date, what extra data or background might be provided in relation to helping the public respond to planning matters and delivering planning policy and The Association had not commented.

3. ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Birgitta Bostrom, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019. She outlined the key points of the accounts pointing to the relevant pages in the Annual Report and Accounts. Total income for the year was £42,281 compared with £19,637 the previous year due to a very generous bequest of £21,250 from Mrs Rosemary Unwin of Orford. Expenses were only £500 less than the year before, so going forward the balance is £697,184. In detail, both membership, gift aid and activities income and expenses and were very similar to 2018 with slight variations, including the Butley Ferry losing some income because 8 days were lost with bad weather. The ferry expenses would have been £3000 higher but Roy and the ferry team had done well to secure local government grants to cover the costs of repairing the walkways and jetties. The annual barbeque was once a bit of a fundraising event but now more of a nice occasion to get together, but the 2019 event secured a profit of £400 due to the kindness of Salter and King who provided the hog roast at cost: the profit was passed to the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust, the fund raiser for the estuary. A further almost £400 was raised on a walk organised in parallel with the AOET flotilla event and was also passed to the AOET. Overall, the Treasurer reported everything was healthy and the accounts look very much as they did last year.

Questions were invited. Frances Barnwell suggested that it would be nice if bequests were acknowledged. The Chairman apologised for not mentioning specifically Rosemary Unwin's kind bequest and said that it

would be mentioned in future fundraising opportunities. She said Trustees had inquired as to whether Rosemary Unwin had any particular purpose in mind. The intention was to use it for something really positive. Full recognition would be given.

To adopt the accounts, the Chairman said that given the limitations of Zoom could everyone show their hands if they agreed. **All indicated they would, so the accounts were adopted.**

4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The retiring Trustees were Simon Barrow and John Grayburn. The Chairman said that The Association was facing a serious problem. There should have at least six Trustees. With the retirement of John and Simon, there now were five. She was delighted that Monica Allen had bravely taken up the role of Newsletter Editor. She knew that John Grayburn would continue for a short while until successors are found for his webmaster and emailing tasks, and that Simon would always be on hand to help on marketing aspects, but to make a great impact more trustees were needed to share the load of seeking to preserve the wonderful landscape for future generations and their enjoyment.

She wanted to thank a good number of people for their contributions to the Association and its cause. First, the Trustees who were continuing their terms of office who had all worked valiantly- Birgitta the Treasurer keeps everything in immaculate order and provides wise and sound advice on policies, Colin our legal adviser and with his ear to the ground in Iken, also serving on the AOCP, Keith not only our planning guru but also now Chair of SCAR (Suffolk Coast Acting for Resilience) and Roy under whom the ferry is not only flourishing but everyone and everything is in very good order.

In particular she wanted to thank John Grayburn, who had formally retired at what would have been the April AGM, after giving fantastic service in both walks, ferry and website and digital membership lists over a good number of years, and she commended his cooked ham provided to the walks lunches which had been renowned in its deliciousness. But even now without John The Association would not have a running website and be emailing those of you we can.

In equal measure she gave huge thanks too to Simon who had been a trustee since 2005 and in his time had taken the ferry forward for several years beginning many traditions – a special hat, loudspeaker, ferrymen’s lunch and lasting enthusiasm,- and he had remained a ferry man and taken up the marketing challenge with great energy. So at this AGM on behalf of the Association she wanted to formally express real appreciation for both their contributions.

And only this week the fantastic membership secretary, Diana Grayburn, who had been doing the work for 12 years, as well as masterminding the ticketing of the Annual Barbecue had said that she would like to stand down. The Chairman said that she would personally miss her as it had been wonderful to have key tasks reliably and safely in happy hand but did understand it was time for her to do other things. Now, how to find someone to fill her shoes.

The Chairman was also sorry that Richard Brunt, one of the Committee’s co-opted members, who represented the Wildfowlers on the estuary had also found his other duties must now take him away from The Association. He has been a most regular attendee and always provided helpful advice and insights, not to mention encouraging articles for the Newsletter, so many thanks to Richard too.

There were no elections to be made but the Chairman put in a strong plea- "there must be someone with some time and energy who really cares about the estuary and keeping it in good heart as a place to live and play: if they could come forward to us we would love to consider potential trustees or anyone who would like to help in any one way. There is so much to be done in and around the estuary, I can't believe there is no one who has the skills or enthusiasm to take The Association forward. Trustees can have fun as you will have heard in relation to John and Simon's experiences."

5. MARKETING – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Simon Barrow, in his last appearance as a Trustee presented his thinking on how to take forward the marketing drive to widen and deepen our membership and its involvement in activities.

First, a real challenge was that while there were some 2000 members, where was the pressure from them on Trustees? There seemed very little when seen against the controversy, challenges and real risks facing the area. He thought that Trustees should be under tremendous pressure, in the same way as leaders in relation to the Third Runway at Heathrow were, but it seemed that our members trust us to get on with it. He thought that the pressure came when people saw that a way of life is on the line, so why did that not happen here? His theory, having done a little research, was that in contrast to third runway, if your own house is under threat that was one thing but when the threat was not so clear, people were more relaxed: but he said, but people here should not be more relaxed- more passion was needed. He was writing an article to say that wherever we live in the estuary area our way of life would be threatened if we lost our river and sea defences, whether our roads, sailing, Snape Maltings and more and whether our houses were the above or below 5 metre contour- its reputation as an expensive and fashionable place with lots of employment would go. He recognised that this was a dangerous card to play and some might not like it, but we had to make more of a fuss about the possible impact. Then perhaps we would have more people.

Second, even with a membership of 2,000, this in no way reflects the broader social economic groups here and The Association needed to get out an appeal to all parts of the community, especially the range of wonderful independent businesses and skills contributing to the community, and indeed everyone here had a stake in this place. He also commented that two thirds of the support organisation for the Lake District did not live there and the same support should be secured for the Alde and Ore.

Third, The Association was the only membership body involved covering all parts of the area but it was not yet truly membership driven, it was not close enough to our members, to be a true membership body it was necessary to know more about members and their wishes but The Association only had addresses and with luck their email addresses: it needed to know more to work properly for them .While .there were many limitations on data collection and use, big commercial companies knew a very great deal about all of us so more data could be collected.

Fourth, our identity, being one of three organisation serving the estuary, needed to be clearer. He saw two issues. There could be times when we had to stand alone and wave our sword. But it was also important that the communications of all three bodies to all those who love the area must have brilliant coherence, we must be coordinated.

Fifth, our reputation as a charity to work for-we have to do some effective marketing on that and shows an exciting place and has interesting people working for it.

As this was his last meeting Simon wanted to say some special thank-yous: - to Trevor Wilkinson one of the former Chairmen of The Association who asked him to take on the Butley Ferry, one of the funniest and fun years Simon had had in any organisation for 10 years, and indeed no one wants to leave the ferry. He thanked the Marketing Group for wonderful discussions hosted by William and Akiko Eddis, which started the ball rolling, and Sarah Ladbury outstanding independent facilitator- there had been an uncomfortable discussion but everyone there cared and while not always correct, they cared and if the Association did not exist they would invent something else. He thanked his Fellow trustees warmly. And finally thanks to Sholto Lindsay-Smith who may, after exploring the marketing challenge, may do some work to help us and he asked Sholto to speak.

Sholto said thank you, was really excited about getting involved, as this was a bit of a coast he was very fond of. From his perspective he could see that The Association needed to increase and broaden membership to continue to be effective. He wanted to think through clearer representation of the organisation to get more active and involved membership in the wider community and there were many sorts of simple things which could be done, such as new media channels, surfacing some of the fantastic work being done already- he was really excited to be involved.

Simon said Sholto would need help. He would need an updated Marketing Group to help him and make sure action happens, so his message to the existing MG was how welcome you are but we may need more people bringing in other and different marketing skills.

Mark Goyder, a member of the Marketing Group, wanted to acknowledge Simon's leadership, energy and wise approach. Work with Marketing Group had been very positive, it had done some listening, was getting a sense of what is missing, and he was keen to work with Sholto to move this forward. Amongst the things needing to be done, in his view this was a moment when we will need to make some investment in paid employment once the plans are clear and so be able then to say to members look at the vision and outreach and contribute more financially to show they value their membership.

The Chairman concluded that clearly going to be a lot happening, and hopefully be able to report more at next AGM but invited more comments.

Roy commented from his ferry experience visited by around 1000 people a year: they were not really interested in river walls but in the beautiful landscape and wild life. Marketing goes in many directions, for example he sat on a Deben marketing team to try to get people to look at and enjoy the Deben Peninsula: in the same way, the more people using the ferry, the more we can teach about the many things that go on in the estuary. The ferrymen also provided an interesting example- some come from a distance such as Kent, York, Ely, Norfolk as well as locally in Suffolk, because they love the area: if we can get people to come from outside the area we should be able to get more interest of people who live in the area, who may be a bit blasé- we have a lovely area want to preserve and it needs to be marketed.

Michael Flint commented that years back The Association had a system that whenever anyone moved into a new house, local people were designated to talk to newcomers about the area and get them to join. This was agreed to be a good approach.

Colin Chamberlain proposed using a further marketing opportunity, an Association guide to the Coastal Path when it opens, which would get more people in touch with the area and help give the Association a good brand. The Chairman agreed and added need someone prepare to pick up and run with it- someone with that skill.

Frances Barnwell asked in relation to walks on river walls, could The Association put pressure on repairing the state of footpaths as it did not fall to Environment Agency's responsibilities. Currently, at either side of Orford, the wall was now entering its winter state of being a 'skating rink', the river wall was being eroded and in an appalling state. The Chairman agreed and said that was the case at Slaughden as well: she would take that forward and contact the Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Department.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None notified.

CONCLUSION

Thank you all very much for coming and if you can energise other people, or if they are worried about anything write to us, and thank you so much to all the trustees, Colin Chamberlain added and huge thank you to you Chairman too.

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2020

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

Registered Charity No. 1154583

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their Report and the Accounts of the Charity for the year to 31st December 2020.

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Alde and Ore Association
Charity Registration No 1154583

Correspondence Address

19 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HG

External Accountants

Ensors Chartered Accountants
Blyth House
Rendham Road
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Names of Charity Trustees

THE COMMITTEE at 31st December 2020

Officers

Alison Andrews	Chairman
Birgitta Bostrom	Treasurer

Other Trustees

Simon Barrow	Marketing (until 23 October 2020)
Colin Chamberlain	Legal Adviser
John Grayburn	Webmaster/Events Co-Ordinator (until 4 April 2020)
Keith Martin	Planning, SCAR
Roy Truman	Butley Ferry

Representatives Appointed by the Trustees

Richard Brunt	Wildfowlers (until 23 October 2020)
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Co-opted members

Honorary Secretary	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Membership Secretary	Diane Grayburn (until 23 October 2020)
Membership Secretary	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Webmaster	Kim Puttock (from 7 December 2020)
Newsletter Editor	Monica Allen (from September 2020)
RDC Convener	Roger Baxter (co-opted member)

B. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Alde and Ore Association (The Association) was founded in 1991. On 1st January 2014, the charitable status was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed all the assets and liabilities of The Association.

Organisational structure

The Charity Trustees constitute a committee which manages the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercises the powers of the CIO.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Association, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees must retire each year but are eligible for re-election, those to retire being the ones who have been longest in office.

C. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objects of The Association are to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them together with the features of beauty and historic or public interest in the area.

We confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The main activities undertaken towards achieving The Association's objectives during the year have been to:

- continue to help to ensure that river defences are upgraded in order to sustain the Alde and Ore and Butley rivers within their landscape to safeguard all the activities, places of interest and wildlife habitats contained within this unique area. This includes very active participation in the work of The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP).
- work to safeguard the estuary by commenting on planning developments or other proposals which might either detract from or enhance the area.
- assess, photograph and report on the state of the river walls. This has been done through The Association's River Defence Committee.
- provide activities to encourage enjoyment or use of the area through the provision of the Butley Ferry, organised walks and an annual barbecue, but they were all closed/postponed because of Covid restrictions.
- take initiatives and contribute to commissioning research to illuminate policies or projects dealing with the river defences and the natural landscape.
- ensure communication with members: two Newsletters have been published and circulated to members and members are kept up to date by emails and through the website.
- work with the A&O Marketing Group to generate active discussion and planning which will clarify the stance and direction of The Association and encourage a broader membership and, critically, the recruitment of new trustees and volunteers.

Contributions

Donations have also been received over and above membership fees for which The Association is extremely grateful.

D. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The main achievements during the year reflect the several and varied activities of The Association but while action has continued, it has been constrained by the various restrictions in movement and meetings necessitated by the corona virus pandemic measures. In many cases action has been more limited or slower in making progress because of the restrictions.

The role of The Association

Within the coronavirus restrictions, Trustees continued to meet regularly, but virtually by Zoom. The Association continued to work to achieve its aim to preserve the rivers and adjoining land which may affect the estuary for the public benefit. The Association seeks to keep track of proposals and ideas which may affect the estuary and its banks either positively or adversely, and to act in the interest of the continued life of the estuary. It provides a voice on the AOCF and seeks to inform members of matters affecting the estuary overall. The Association has over the years contributed considerably to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of the Alde, Ore and Butley river area.

But the estuary needs the support and involvement of all who live, work and visit the area, now more than ever. This is why The Association created the strapline 'Your Voice – Your Estuary' in 2018, after consulting with members.

Working with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership on the river defences

2020 saw the transition from the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership to the new Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCF) taking forward the local community input into contributing to secure the implementation of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan. The new AOCF is the guardian of the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan strategy and is the main body to ensure good communication throughout out the estuary about progress of plans; while the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board carries the responsibility of implementing the construction of the defences; the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is responsible as the treasury of the Estuary for raising funds to contribute to cost of the defence works and ensuring that they are effectively spent.

The AOCF involves the whole of the estuary community having representatives from all parishes bordering the estuary, one county and two district councillors, a business sector representative, a local IDB Board member and The Association which is the only body covering all parts of the estuary. The Association continues to be an active member of the Partnership to ensure that it works well in the interests of the wellbeing of the estuary and its use. During 2020, action has been limited to getting the new Partnership's constitution and way of working, communications with parishes and people and web site in good order, while all estuary bodies await the outcome of the IDB application to the Environment Agency for approval of the construction plans and securing a commitment to grant aid to contribute to the cost of the works, in order to enable the refurbishment of the river walls to begin.

The Association continued to report directly to the Environment Agency on the state of the shingle wall south of Martello Tower in Aldeburgh. The Environment Agency are monitoring the coast carefully but have said they appreciate the regular local updates.

The Association has sought to keep members informed about the estuary plans, through its Newsletters and would have also done that via email had there been any urgent news to pass on or views required. The Association places great store on its communications about the Estuary and regards it as important that members can obtain a good understanding of the progress being made.

Protection of the landscape

During 2020 The Association continued to monitor all planning applications, local and national, which might affect the estuary environment. We also liaised with the AONB planning team on relevant applications. Comments were submitted where it was thought necessary, of which two cases are significant:

- At Jumbo's Cottage in Iken, an application had been made to extend its residential curtilage and build a timber jetty. The Association objected to the changes to the residential curtilage and suggested constraints upon the jetty. The proposal to extend the curtilage was withdrawn and the jetty has now gone ahead with our suggested constraints in place.
- At Iken Hall there have been several applications in past years to erect various agricultural style buildings in the fields adjoining the house to which The Association has objected. 2020 saw two applications to erect a garden machinery store in a prominent location overlooking the estuary and the footpath and implying a residential curtilage definition for an agricultural location. Approval has been given to the building for agricultural purposes only and not for storing equipment ancillary to the house and garden.

In July 2020, The Association noted the outcome of the Government's 2019 policy consultations on the proposed strategic risk management policy for flood and coastal erosion and on the concepts of resilience and adaptation in relation to flood management. The Association welcomed the new policy statement which was favourable to the approach advocated by The Association – to have a policy consistent with the local plans for realistic resilience management of a landscape, such as the estuary, much valued by the local community and economy. The Association also welcomed the Government's commitment to a greatly increased budget for flood defences in the next six-year funding period starting in spring 2021.

The Association commented further, following comments in 2019, on two major power company proposals where the proposed installation of new power stations could, if not properly researched and implemented, lead to damaging the fragile but dynamically eroding coastline to the north of the estuary and so possibly lead to damaging the coastline bordering the estuary. Members were alerted to these consultations so that individual responses could also be submitted.

River Defence Committee

The River Defence Team, who conduct an annual survey of the state of the river walls of some 44 km, landowners and potential new members, attended an excellent presentation and training morning at the end of February by the Environment Agency on how flood defence walls worked and the range of weaknesses to be looked for that needed reporting. This was to be in time for the annual walks to examine the river walls after the March equinox. Unfortunately, three weeks later the coronavirus pandemic necessitated Government restrictions on people getting together. This inevitably limited participation by some members of the River Defence team, particularly training new members, and delayed some surveys until the lockdown restrictions were modified. Nevertheless, under the direction of Roger Baxter, the River Defence team organiser, most of the walls were surveyed, albeit some later than usual. Reports were submitted to the Environment Agency which expressed appreciation for the survey which helps the EA plan and budget for addressing any defects. About 20 volunteers carried out and prepared reports commenting on and mapping any changes: the reports are available on the website and were submitted to help the Environment Agency's wall reviews.

We are extremely grateful to everyone for their commitment in time and effort in producing the reports which provide a running benchmark of the state of the walls and provide early warning of when repairs are needed.

Enjoyment of the area

Coronavirus restrictions meant that the walks and barbecue planned for 2020 had to be postponed. It was the first time in 29 years since the Annual Barbecue first took place that there could be no barbecue.

Trustees organised a meeting by Zoom in May so that members had the opportunity to hear how the coastal installations proposed for the construction of Sizewell C might impact on the Suffolk coastal processes and possibly affect the Alde and Ore Estuary as much of its eastern bank is formed or bounded by the Orfordness shingle spit. Some 40 members attended this new venture in communications.

There was no news or opportunity for The Association to facilitate consultation with members or the general public on the Natural England plans for the England coastal path, although residents and landowners in areas that might be affected were asked of views on possible routes. This may arise in 2021.

While group events were not possible, clearly members and the general public were able to get out and enjoy the estuary area in the summer: sales of The Association's two walks books increased.

The Butley Ferry

This year the ferry team not only undertook the usual restoring and refurbishment of the ferry boat and moorings, but also repainted the ferry hut. In addition, they built three sturdy benches for ferry passengers and walkers to relax on (the work was done by members of the ferry team on behalf of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit who funded the materials).

The coronavirus regulations imposed on the UK in spring and early summer delayed the opening of ferry services for three months. Once unleashed, the volunteers worked rapidly to antifoul and launch the boat and, with all of the prescribed precautions in place, hit the ground running.

The ferry operated for approximately half of a normal season, lost four days to bad weather and carried a total of 585 passengers including 35 children and 284 cyclists. Average daily income, with no change in the fee, was £86.76, up from £55.78 in 2019. To accommodate the hygiene requirements during the pandemic, the operating procedures were changed to commit two adults to being on duty on each day.

Research commissioned

No new research was commissioned. However, East Coast Council formally adopted the recommendation of the Shoreline Management Plan Review to amend the interim policy for the shingle bank south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower from No Active Intervention after the year 2025 to Managed Re-alignment/Resilience after 2025. That review was informed by a report commissioned from Professor Pye, completed in 2016, on the possible breach in the sea shingle wall. The changed upgraded policy was very welcome news for the estuary.

Communication with members

The planned for Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2020 had to be postponed as government restrictions did not allow public gatherings. Given the continuing limitations after the summer, Trustees reconvened the adjourned AGM so that it was held, virtually, by Zoom on 23 October 2020. Some 40 members attended.

As usual two newsletters, each 16 pages with many photographs, were circulated to keep members informed about what was going on in the estuary and provide items of interest on different aspects of the estuary. Sales of walks booklets continued, mostly via the Aldeburgh Bookshop. The usual connections to engage with members and potential members at the Butley and Orford Flower Shows were not possible because all such local events were cancelled given the corona virus limitations.

As no gatherings were possible Trustees issued three special email letters during the year, as well as ones relating to the postponed Annual General Meeting and its reconvening by Zoom in October, to bring members up to date with what was happening in relation to the estuary.

The website was kept updated but ideas for including information on a wider range of matters were stalled as more volunteer resources are needed.

Members continue to be encouraged to provide email addresses and to give permission for their use so as to ensure timely and much less costly circulation of matters affecting the estuary area.

The annual talk by a guest speaker, on this occasion it would have been Giles Bloomfield of the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board on taking forward the Alde and Ore Estuary plan, had to be cancelled.

The Association's Marketing Group action

The work of the Marketing Group was taken forward by Trustees, particularly Simon Barrow before his retirement from the Committee at the AGM held in October. Involvement of members with focus and similar groups which had been planned proved not possible with the corona virus restrictions. Articles in the Spring and Autumn Newsletters carried that thinking forward. Further, Trustees developed a further definition of the aims and objectives and have welcomed the help kindly volunteered by Sholto Lindsay-Smith to advise on marketing matters, reaching out to a wider membership and encouraging a more engaged and vibrant relationship with members. That work is on-going.

E. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Association has a Reserves Policy of building its reserves without significant increases in membership fees whilst continuing to maintain existing services to members.

The Association's main source of income is its membership fees (there are currently over 2,000 members in total, including members enrolled by reason of their membership of the Aldeburgh Yacht Club).

The Association expects to have to use its reserves to employ consultants, advisers and possibly even contractors to ensure the objectives of The Association in preserving the Alde and Ore Estuary for the benefit of the public are met. The Association might also give grants to other charitable organisations in order to achieve its aims.

Both unrestricted as well as restricted reserves of The Association are currently held in savings deposit accounts with CCLA, Virgin Money, Shawbrook Bank, and current accounts at Barclays Bank.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Members of The Association's Committee are responsible for preparing the Charity's annual report and financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law requires that the report and financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity.

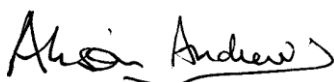
In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees, for the purposes of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on page 1.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th March 2021



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Lady Andrews, OBE
Chair of the Trustees

www.aldeandore.org

To reduce our postage expenses, this is updated with current news, Association events, AGM minutes and reports.
We welcome comments and ideas.

**NB to enable us to send you news/events etc. without incurring expensive postage costs,
please send your email address to: info@aldeandore.org

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2020

For general comments see Note 1.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Income	2				
Membership fees and donations		12,185	-	12,185	31,819
Other Trading Activities		1,802	-	1,802	6,504
Investment income		135	2,648	2,783	3,958
Total		14,122	2,648	16,770	42,281
Expenditure	3				
Raising funds		885	-	885	5,951
Charitable activities		6430	-	6430	7,498
Total		7,316		7,316	13,449
Net income/(expenditure)		6,806	2,648	9,454	28,832
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		69,670	627,514	697,184	668,352
Net movement in funds		6,806	2,648	9,454	28,832
Fund balances carried forward		76,476	630,162	706,638	697,184

Balance sheet as at 31st December

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets		-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Stocks		-	-	-	-
Debtors - Interest earned		1	5	6	233
Cash at bank and in hand		77,506	630,157	707,663	697,697
Total Current Assets		77,507	630,162	707,669	697,930
Liabilities					
Due in less than a year	4	1030	-	1030	746
Net Assets		76,476	630,162	706,638	697,184

Approved by the Trustees and signed by:



.....8th March 2021

Lady Andrews,
OBE Chair of the
Trustees

The notes on pages 22 to 25 to form part of these financial statements

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Fund accounting

The Charity has restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose, or where funds have been raised for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted.

Incoming resources

Annual memberships are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Memberships received in advance are deferred and included in creditors.

Legacies and donations are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of grants can be measured with sufficient reliability. Legacies can be categorised as either pecuniary (specific cash amount) or residuary (share of an estate). Pecuniary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and notification has been received. Residuary legacies are recognised as receivable once probate has been granted and where they can be measured reliably.

Income from sales of publications is recognised as earned as the related goods are provided.

Investment income is credited to income on the accrual's basis, with daily accrual of interest calculated by reference to the distribution dates.

Resources Expended

All 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 obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity, so there is no charge for taxation.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. Income

<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2020 Total funds £</i>	<i>2019 Total funds £</i>
Income from membership fees and donations				
Membership fees	6,148	-	6,148	6,305
Membership fees from Aldeburgh Yacht Club	2,766	-	2,766	2,765
Gift Aid Refund	1,271	-	1,271	1,339
Donations and legacies	2,000		2,000	21,410
Total income from membership, fees and donations	12,185	0	12,185	31,819
Income from other trading activities				
BBQ	-	-	0	2,595
Walks	-	-	0	1,106
Butley Ferry	1,787	-	1,787	2,733
Sales of publications/DVDs	15	-	15	70
Total income from other trading activities	1,802		1,802	6,504
Income from investments				
Interest on cash deposits	135	2,648	2,783	3,958
Total income from investments	135	2,648	2,783	9,958
Total income	14,122	2,648	16,770	48,281

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3. Expenditure

<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>2020 Total funds £</i>	<i>2019 Total funds £</i>
Cost of raising funds				
BBQ Cost	-	-		2,211
Walks cost	-	-		809
Butley Ferry cost	885	-	885	2,931
Total cost of raising funds	885		885	5,951
Cost of Charitable Activities				
Newsletter	4,467	-	4,467	3,409
Website costs	86	-	86	130
Postage/Stationary	-	-	-	72
Miscellaneous	110	-	110	393
Consultants (Professor Pye)	-	-	-	560
Donations and grants by A&O	-	-	-	1,055
AGM	1,127	-	1,127	1,266
Independent Examination of Accounts	370	-	370	350
Insurance	270	-	270	263
		-	-	-
Total cost of charitable activities	6,430	-	6,430	7,498
Total expenditure	7,316	-	7,316	13,449

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. Liabilities

	At 31st December 2020
Autumn newsletter postage	670
Independent Examination	360
Total Liabilities	1030

5. Funds

	<i>At 1 January 2020</i>	<i>Incoming resources</i>	<i>Outgoing resources</i>	<i>At 31 December 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
David Andren Bequest	627,514	2,648		630,162
Total restricted funds	627,514	2,648		630,162
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	69,670	14,122	7,316	76,476
Total unrestricted funds	69,670	14,122	7,316	76,476
Total funds	697,184	16,770	7,316	706,638

Purposes of restricted funds

The bequest from David Andren has been described in the Accounts for the sake of identification as 'restricted funds'. They are held by The Association to be applied as The Association sees fit and The Association has determined it will do so having regard to the wishes expressed in David Andren's will as follows: for the purposes of encouraging the community to help finance actions which will preserve the unique charm of the estuary, and in hope that the funds should be used to improve walls around Orford.

Purpose of general funds

General funds are those which are unrestricted and not designated for any other purpose. The balance on the general fund will be used to cover the excess of expenditure over incoming resources aims and mission.

ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the membership of the Charity

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Alde & Ore Association for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As trustees of the Charity 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 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Carl Page FCCA
Ensors Accountants LLP

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Blyth House
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Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1WA

Dated:09/03/2021.....