

HENFIELD BIRDWATCH – Treasurer’s Report 2025 (draft)

Firstly, thank you all for your support during 2025. Our membership remained stable during 2026, with the number of new members balanced by those who did not renew. Often those persuaded to join at a meeting do not continue with their membership the following year!

Income from subscriptions was slightly lower than in 2024 at £1638, entrance fees for talks came to £84 and there was a small “profit” of £31 on the boat trip at Chichester Harbour, organised again by Sara.

2025 was The Year of the Book! After many months in preparation and a huge amount of time and effort, especially from Paul, we were able to take delivery in April of 80 of the much anticipated “The Birds of Henfield” and the Committee rushed around delivering/posting them to those who had pre-ordered. More were sold at meetings and through publicity, so another 55 were ordered before the end of the year, and only four are left in stock. Sales raised £1386 during this year, but we had £455 in the bank from pre-orders in 2024, and have taken another £178 in 2026, so over £2000 in total. As well as the printing costs of £1424 we paid a professional proof reader to undertake a thorough check of the text and to compile the index. This brought the total production cost up to £2172. We should be able to order extras if required at approx. £10 per book.

Our other main expenditure during 2025 was for our talks: Keith Betton in February (Stone-curlew), Nicholas Watts in September (Farming for Wildlife) and Mike Unwin in November (Empire of the Eagle). All were very well received. Hall hire, which has increased since the new management system came into place, was nearly £500 and speakers’ fees £437.

Website costs were lower than last year (£210) and MailChimp, the system used for sending newsletters etc, cost £85 for December 2024-July 2025, though another £70 relating to July to December was paid in January 2026.

A successful Bird Bash in May raised £420 for The Henfield Haven, and we were very pleased to fund four more Swift boxes, costing £181 (total) for use in the village.

We were expecting a deficit this year because of the costs associated with the book. This was £445, very similar to the advance payments held (£455).

Taking out the effect of the book and small liabilities, we covered our general operating costs from our income, even making a small excess of approximately £200.

A project we are proposing to fund is to do more to support Swifts in the village, with printed flyers for information, purchase of more boxes, sound systems (to play calls), and installation costs. The Swift group are taking this forward.

The accounts were examined and agreed by Wendy Whittaker
Val Bentley (Treasurer)
March 2026