

# BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

1. This report covers the six months from October 2020 to April 2021. The 2019-20 Annual Report covered a period eighteen months, the AGM having been postponed on account of Covid-19; this report reverts to the previous reporting cycle, and has been prepared for the AGM to be held via Zoom on 11 April 2021.
2. **Trustees.** Rosy Thornton and Andrew Derrick were re-appointed at the 2020 AGM (trustees until October 2023). Other trustees are Eve Rossor (Hon. Sec), Mike Livesey (Hon Treasurer), Rodney West (Hon Membership/Supporters Secretary), Karen Baker and Mark Oakley (Parish Council nominees). It has been suggested that Mark's and Karen's term of office should run parallel with that for the PC (for four years, ending in 2023). This to be ratified at the AGM.
3. **Jasper's Pightle.** The gifted land opposite Shepherd's Cottage has been named Jasper's Pightle, in memory of Jasper Walters, the late owner. Despite Covid restrictions, good progress has been made. Ben from Suffolk Wildlife Trust has cut all the areas of bracken accessible by tractor, paid for by a kind donation from Karen. Regular Sunday afternoon raking parties have taken place to clear the bracken. It will need regular cutting and clearing to keep on top of the situation.

A fundraising subcommittee has been set up to raise funds for asbestos removal. This consists of Rosy (chair), Andrew, Eve and Rodney, and its first two (Zoom) meetings were held in January and February 2021. Following this, approaches were made to a number of grant-giving bodies. £500 has been received from the Scarfe Trust, and a decision from Adnams is awaited. A number of generous private donations have also been received. A fundraising leaflet has been produced. We have applied to be registered with HMRC for Gift Aid, a necessary prior step before applying to many sources of grant aid; a response from HMRC is awaited. A further fundraising drive will take place in the spring, including creation of a JustGiving page, with a view to getting the asbestos removed later in 2021.

4. **Potential gift of land at Stone Common:** The Trust's solicitor Mr Pulham has obtained plans from the Land Registry of the three parcels of land which form the proposed gift, and a plan of Registered Commons from SCC. As with the land opposite Shepherd's Cottage, a two-stage conveyance is planned, first from Mr Prevost to the Trustees and then immediately from the Trustees to the Official Custodian for Charities who will hold the title on our behalf. Mr Pulham is working with the donor's solicitors, Spurlings, to progress the transfer.
5. **Budget setting:** As we now have land, with all the costs and responsibilities that go with that, trustees have been looking at our income and outgoings. Current income is via donations from members/supporters, and a modest donation from Norse for litter picking. These do not cover current outgoings, for insurance, bracken cutting, printing, hall hire and website hosting, which amount to about £500 per year. With further land acquisitions, these figures will increase. Trustees have agreed that an increased subscription/donation should be asked of our members and supporters to meet routine costs (capital projects such as the asbestos clearance would be subject to separate, additional fundraising). An annual donation of £15 has been

agreed for individuals, £25 for households. A letter and form will go out to households in the spring. Rodney has been appointed Hon Membership/Supporters Secretary.

6. **Litter picks:** A litter pick took place in October 2020, and a photograph of the haul featured as part of a BCOST update in the village newsletter for winter 2021. A date for a spring litter pick will be agreed at the April AGM.

**The Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces  
2020 Accounts**

	£	£
Cash at Bank 31.12.2019		
Petty Cash	1762.56 30.84	
		1793.40
 Income		
Suffolk Coastal litter picking	200	
East Suffolk Grant	750	
Subscriptions/donations	221.00	
Bank Cash	80	
 Payments		
Blaxhall Village Hall	12.25	
Suffolk Wildlife Trust Bracken clearance	48.00	
 Balance as at 31.12.20		2984.15
 Made up of:		
Cash at Bank	2873.31	
Petty cash	30.84	
Subscriptions/Donations cash	80.00	
		2984.15

Prepared by Mike Livesey (Treasurer)