

# Annual Report 2021-2022



*"...so much of our success has always depended on close personal contact with nature and with inspiring people..."*

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## A year of inspiration

**In a year** when everybody struggled, and when many organisations, large and small, simply gave up the ghost, Wildside Activity Centre took a deep breath, carried on as best it could, and is now recovering magnificently. That performance in the face of Covid restrictions is particularly impressive, since so much of our success has always depended on close personal contact with nature and with inspiring people. Well done to everyone who played a part.

As the number of visitors, volunteers and supporters returns to more 'normal' levels, I think it is particularly encouraging to see the kinds of people who are benefitting from Wildside. I am involved with a good few conservation charities – The National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB for example – and I think it is fair to say that all of them tend to be overwhelmingly supported by older individuals just like me. By contrast, Wildside really manages to involve children, and young to middle-aged Mums and Dads. That's brilliant.

The next couple of years promise to be as challenging as the past two, but in different ways. As the cost-of-living rises, and new sources of stress emerge, we have something really special to offer. Access to nature, in the company of friends, is a great way to deal with anxiety, and with such great facilities within a short walk of tens of thousands of local people. Ours is a resource that really can be enjoyed by anyone and everyone.



Of course, there are costs to running our centre, our wonderful narrowboat and our support staff. In a recession the funding is bound to be tough, so we will depend ever more heavily on sponsorship and the hard work of volunteers. Anyone who can offer extra help, in funds or in kind, please don't hesitate. There are very few organisations that are more deserving.

Professor Chris Baines, Honorary President

*"An excellent activity for the whole family!  
We love Wildside and everything it offers."*

Forest School participants 17.08.20

# From the Chair

This was the year of the 'new normal', not just for Wildside, but for the wider world. For the most part our doors stayed open throughout the entire year, though we were still extremely conscious of ensuring the safety of all centre users and staff with even more rigorous cleaning regimes, social distancing and reduced numbers on what is after all, a very 'narrow' boat. That being said, it was fantastic to see people coming along to enjoy what we were able to offer.

Little Explorers started up once again offering a vibrant series of learning experiences for pre-schoolers exploring the natural world in a safe environment. Friends and colleagues we had built relationships with over many years came back to us once again, grateful to be able to go beyond the confines of their own four walls, whether they were shared communities or individual homes. Some long-standing supporters, particularly schools, remained cautious and stayed away, only making tentative approaches about what we could provide towards the end of the year when the more vulnerable members of society and those caring for them felt confident that the world was once again a (relatively) safe place to explore.

As you will read later in this report, the numbers of people coming to Wildside reflected our move to a new normality. Unsurprisingly they were up on the previous year, however user numbers still did not approach the levels of pre-Covid years. Nonetheless the signs were extremely positive and the levels of engagement offer a solid platform on which Wildside can look to develop its services over the years to come.

In terms of long-term sustainability this year in which Wildside made great strides its drive towards being carbon neutral as several years of planning and an intensive application process we were awarded a £50,000 from the Enover Trust to install a source heat pump making use of our location. The grant was further supplemented later in the year with an £5000 from Wolverhampton City Council's Business Relight programme, part of which focused on green initiatives. Following a competitive tender process, a specialist provider was appointed and a schedule of work was set out ready for installation to begin in the Spring of 2022.

"...the green shoots of recovery that have been sown this year can be nurtured and turned into the solid trees that will support the next phase of Wildside's development"

which over the was a towards after grant of water canalside additional

The exciting water-based achievements continued as thanks to the grant from 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent charity given the previous year, the refurbishment programme was completed on Trebalisa. The generosity of the former Goodyear workers extended beyond the actual refurbishment as the fund allowed for a number of local organisations working with those with additional needs to enjoy free trips on the boat for the next three years. A special note of thanks should be given here to Cyril Barret and his colleagues from the TGWU fund who have been generous supporters of Wildside for several years and who have also committed to support Wildside as it seeks to develop a new outdoor learning space in the grounds of the centre – a proposal which gained Board approval this year.

Alongside the major funding secured this year, smaller but equally significant pots of money were accessed to fund key initiatives including our cycling programmes (funded by Cycling UK) and a one-off grant from Creative Black Country to develop a soundscape and photography project based around people's experiences of engaging with nature. As the end of the year approached, Wildside

took part in the Big Give Green Match funding programme which saw donations received during one week in March matched by the Big Give fund. The campaign brought in more than £5000, over £2600 of which was from Big Give. Our regular supporters also continued to show their support with one in particular going the extra mile – quite literally – to help us, as long-time friend of Wildside, Simon Coates took on a 2000 mile trek on behalf of a number of charities raising over £4,500 including more than £330 for Wildside

Our projects continued to offer a depth of provision which sets out to engage with the local community. The National Lottery Wellness to Wildness project provides a level of additional funding which can be used to offset the costs of taking part for those with additional needs and local families who may not otherwise be able to take part in what we offer. The Project Officer worked hard through the year to develop relationships with a number of key organisations including Voice4Parents, a peer support group for parents of local children with additional needs.

The work of the Business Development Manager focused on building infrastructure – updating policies particularly in the sphere of HR, and also establishing the basis for a new cloud based IT system which will enable staff to share documents and work seamlessly whether they are in the office or working remotely – an obvious advantage should the disruption of the past two years ever be repeated. The steps that have been taken in these areas will now allow the BDM to concentrate on establishing greater connections with the local business community in order to identify new areas of funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the centre.

ESF funding came to an end this year resulting in the closure of the employment support programme which had run so successfully under Joan Morgan. However in June we successfully applied and received funding from the John Lewis Foundation which enabled us to set up a new two year programme supporting young people aged 18-24 who are out of the work environment. Our relationship with Canal and River Trust also continued with funding for a third Our Space project.

Volunteers were able to return to work at Wildside, after the previous year when volunteering was not allowed for large periods of time and volunteers put in some 4278 hours of work for the Centre in various ways. Their contribution continues to be an incredibly important aspect of what we do here and we remain grateful to the volunteers for everything they do.

In terms of staffing, as highlighted above, Elise Stewart continued to drive the Our Space project forward and Andy Coulter came on board to lead on the employment project and support young people in developing skills and confidence to enable them to move into employment or training. Caz Cox, a long-time casual activity worker and boat skipper undertook the nine month training to become a qualified Forest School teacher as Wildside hosted a training programme facilitated by specialist Forest school trainer and provider Huathe.

There was one significant change that took place in terms of staffing this year however as Steve Downs who has been involved with the centre in several capacities over many years – most recently as Activities Coordinator – decided to retire. Steve has been an incredible supporter of Wildside and its ethos of fostering a respect for the environment in which we live and although his day to day presence will be missed by all those associated with the centre, users, colleagues and friends past and present, we were thrilled to be able to secure Steve's



services as a Board member later in the year – something for which we are extremely grateful given his levels of knowledge and experience.

Looking to the future, Wildside continues to be an active member of the Smestow Valley Liaison Group which, amongst a number of initiatives, is seeking to apply for a significant National Lottery Heritage Grant which will transform access to and engagement with the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve. As part of the bid, Wildside will take the lead in plans to develop a community orchard within the reserve.

Following an approach by Wolverhampton City Council a proposal has been put forward for Wildside to become the lead agency in managing West Park Conservatory as the council looks at how it can open the conservatory to the general public once again and manage it as a viable going concern.



Such proposals, along with increasing opportunities to develop joint working with organisations that share similar (and complementary) aims and objectives to Wildside such as Kingswood Trust, Gatis Street Community Centre and The Way Youth Zone will ensure that green shoots of recovery that have been sown this year following the relative fallow of Covid, can now be nurtured and turned into the solid trees that will support the next phase of Wildside's development over the coming year.

**Liz Ashwell, Chair of the Board**

*"It is vital for families who are impacted by additional needs to have access to the same opportunities given to other children and young people in Wolverhampton. It is great to be part of this offer"*

Voice4Parents, September 2021

# Attendance 2021 – 2022

## A year of recovery

This year, we were spared the major periods of lockdown and could concentrate on getting services back up and running. Our users gradually returned but activity groups were kept to slightly lower numbers and all the hygiene measures remained in place. The number of individual users in 2021/22 was 5117. This is a considerable recovery on the level of usage at the height of the pandemic in 2020/21 but was still affected by the final period of lockdown. It is hoped that with more stability now, the levels of usage will return in a full year to those seen in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

We have monitored individual users separately from those who come with an organised group. Group users, particularly schools are very reluctant to provide demographic information on their members and in some group

instances we have used estimates to flesh out the picture.

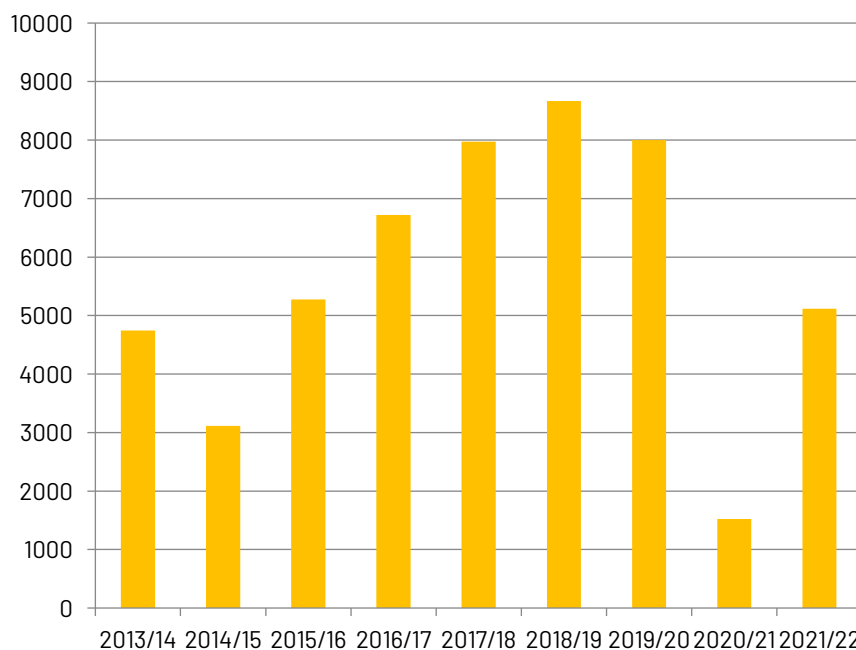
For a picture of **where our users come from**, we have

monitored individual usage by postcode. Of 824 users who came individually or as a family, 22% came from WV6 in the wider Tettenhall area and 6% came from WV6 Whitmore Reans (slightly up on the 2020/21 figure). Usage by local users from Whitmore Reans will also be

increased by the school

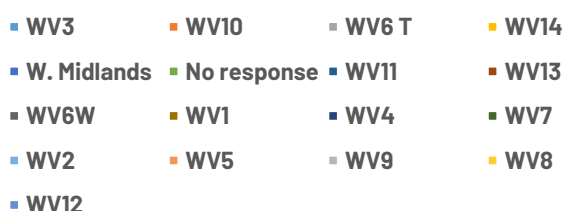
groups, as most of the local schools use the Centre. 18% came from WV3, 15% came from WV10 Wednesfield and 8% came from WV4 Penn.

Other postcodes have less numerous attendance. These figures can alter from year to year and are especially influenced by families that may attend a large number of activities in a particular year as it suits the interests and age group of their children.



Attendance 2013/14 to 2021/22

## Attendance by postcode 2021-22



We also try to get a general picture of the demographic characteristics of our users. In terms of **gender**, more of the individual users were female than male (57% compared to 36%).

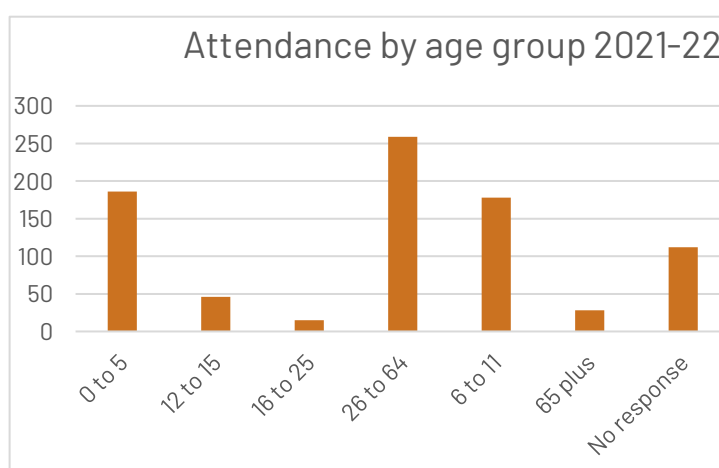
In relation to **age** in 2021/22 the programme was not only able to attract higher numbers but with the lifting of COVID restrictions, the age groups became better balanced as children's activities returned nearer to their previous levels.

The largest age group for individual users was still 26 to 64 but numbers of those aged 0 – 5 and 6 – 11 were much higher. Adding in the numbers of children that came with booked groups, 38% (1841) of all attendees were children.

Out of 824 individual attendees, 44 declared a **disability or health**

need. A significant number chose not to respond to this question, so total numbers are likely to be somewhat higher. Amongst those individual users who mentioned a disability: learning difficulties, physical disability and mental ill health were quite evenly distributed and a similar number had multiple disabilities. Numbers are small and not statistically significant so it is difficult to draw any useful

conclusions from this pattern except to say that people with many different experiences of disability can be shown to come to the activities at Wildside. Within the collective group bookings, a further 736 people with additional needs were identified. This means that the overall numbers of people with a disability or health need were over 15% of the total users. The City Council's population profile shows that 20.5% of Wolverhampton residents have some form of disability.



The numbers choosing to respond to the question of **sexual orientation** was still less than 50%, with 43 % of the adults responding identified as 'straight/heterosexual'. The response from people with other orientations had increased slightly on the previous year. 12 individuals (3%) had identified as bisexual, lesbian or 'other'.

In terms of **ethnicity** 47% of those attending identified as white British or another white identity. 17% identified as a member of a minority ethnic group, slightly lower than in 2020/21. The non-response rate for individuals was 36%, which was substantially higher than the previous year and this makes a real difference to the accuracy of the estimates of minority group attendance. With group bookings the response rate is extremely poor as schools and other group organisers do not wish to provide the personal data required. Estimates of the numbers from black and minority ethnic groups were used in relation to schools using the general figures for Wolverhampton schools in that year. The



largest group of minority ethnic users (9%) was Caribbean or Caribbean and white (dual heritage). This was followed by 7% of users of Indian, Pakistani or Asian and white dual heritage. If schools do visit the Centre and are willing to provide data, the figures alter considerably. The highest proportion of schools visiting us are from Whitmore Reans and the proportion of black and minority ethnic pupils usually exceeds the city average.

For purposes of comparison, the City Council equality profile shows 35.5% of the population as from black and minority ethnic groups. <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/your-council/equality-diversity-inclusion/wolverhampton-profile>



Installing an information board on the Smestow Valley local nature reserve

**Volunteers** were also able to return to work at Wildside, after the previous year when volunteering was not allowed for large periods of time. Volunteers put in some 4278 hours of work for the Centre in various ways. If this is valued at the minimum wage per hour (£8.91), then it is estimated that volunteers contributed £38,116 in value to the community. If the figure is calculated at the median average wage in Wolverhampton (£13.40 in 2021), the estimated contribution is £57,325. The volunteer hours have increased

considerably since the previous year when COVID-19 restricted volunteer groups but the trend has been a gradual reduction on the highest levels in pre-pandemic times.

There are many different types of volunteering at Wildside, including the Conservation Volunteer Group, volunteers crewing the boat and volunteers working in the office and on various projects from organisations looking to give back to the community. In the main, the decrease in volunteer hours is expected as people volunteering in the office are gradually doing fewer hours as the staffing funded by the Lottery is coming into place.



Volunteers from the Church of the Latter-Day Saints in Wolverhampton who helped out at Wildside this year

# Projects

## National Lottery Wellness to Wildness

Following a year interrupted by furlough, the Business Development Officer and Project Officer were able to work to almost full capacity across the majority of the second year of the project.

The works to refurbish the toilets and improve water drainage were completed in February. Project Officer Manni Kaur told us that she would be leaving for 12 months maternity leave just after the end of the year in April. The activities undertaken to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Wellness to Wildness project, along with outcomes are summarised below:

Following the end of lockdown, the project was able to deliver a greater number of activity sessions than in its first year with numbers reaching and/or exceeding targets as follows:

	Additional Needs	Local Families	Total	Project target
No. of sessions	63	28	91	80
No. of participants	582	491	1073	800

In terms of business engagement 22 local businesses were engaged with a total of 64 participants from the local business community coming in to offer support through volunteering or to discuss future partnership opportunities. Although only £1000 was raised in terms of direct corporate sponsorship, this should be seen in the wider context of business development activities which secured over £85,000 in grants from various sources across the year.

Further business development initiatives:

- Attending regular business networking events including: Back to a new kind of Business; Black Country Business Club (Chamber of Commerce); Wolverhampton Business Breakfast Club; Wolverhampton Business network
- As part of building stronger relationships with Wolverhampton City Council, Wildside was invited to submit a business case proposal to manage West Park Conservatory. The council are currently reviewing the proposal.
- Initial discussions to develop a mutually beneficial partnership arrangement with the Kingswood Trust
- Ongoing Bronze membership of Black Country Chamber of Commerce
- Sponsorship of the Exceptional Employee / Team category at the Black Country Chamber Business Awards with outcomes including extensive coverage on BCCC website, Express & Star and in Prosper magazine which generated equivalent advertising spend of approx. £5,500; distribution of Wildside's



corporate leaflets to all award attendees (120 approx.); Wildside branding included on all pre and post awards publicity and on the awards backdrop; the BDM presented the award on stage in front of the live audience and 1000 business representatives watching via live streaming.

## Our Space III

Following another successful 10 month project, the Canal and River Trust (CRT), funded a third Our Space project this year. Our Space has a remit to promote the benefits of engaging with the canal network and its surrounding environment to local communities.

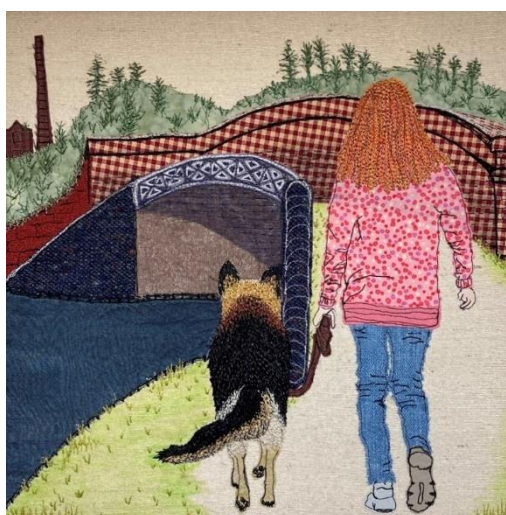


Our Space III ran from October 2020 to the end of March 2021. The targets for the project were to run 30 activities with 300 participants and to create 30 volunteering opportunities with 150 hours total volunteering. With fewer Covid restrictions this year, more activities were organised and as a result targets were exceeded. A total of 36 activities saw 503 people participate, and 27 volunteering activities provided 304.5 hours of opportunities.

Along with a wide range of educational, health and 'just good fun' activities, the project supported the centre's Open Day in September. One of the project's highlights was a textile art activity which saw some stunning pieces created by participants who were asked to create embroideries based on their experiences of engaging with the local canals.

*"Eira and I had a lot of fun, and it was a great way for us to be involved in our local human and botanical community. It helped Eira learn gardening skills too!"*

(Emily and Eira signed up for a canal bank planting session as part of the Our Space III Project)



*"Happy memories of walking my dogs at Bumble Hole and Warrens Hall Park in Dudley, many years ago. Appliquéd fabrics with free machine stitching and a little hand stitching."*

Judy Higginson. *Life is Better by Water* embroidery



## Wild for Skills - Employment support project

This new two year project, funded by the John Lewis Community Investment Fund focuses on increasing participation in volunteering or work experience by people who are long-term unemployed and to assist volunteers in building their skills and job search. It is supported by the John Lewis Community Investment Fund.

The early focus of the project raised awareness with potential partner organisations and referrers as well as interested individuals. In addition to general publicity of the project, direct contact was made with Job Centres, training providers, housing associations and other major employability programmes.

Once established, Andy Coulter who led on the project recruited 9 volunteers who participated in 67 days of volunteering and training. In terms of outcome; of the 9 volunteers:

- 9 demonstrated increased confidence and self-esteem visible through their contributions to sessions
- 6 demonstrated increased knowledge of wildlife
- 2 produced new CVs
- 1 received individually tailored employability support leading to increased employment opportunities

The project continues to develop and is seeking to increase the number of young people supported in Year 2

## Little Explorers

Our activity programme for pre-school children, Little Explorers, which is held every Monday during term time, continued to engage youngsters in in exploratory play utilising the natural world around them. Sessions provide young learners with stimulating, educational experiences based around the principles of Forest School teaching.

The group which works with families primarily based around Whitmore Reans, Compton and Tettenhall continued to be supported by the generosity of the James Beattie Trust during the year. Additional funding was secured from the Harry Payne Foundation.

During the year 934 children attended sessions (parents and carers who must accompany children are not included in this total). Due to its popularity the number of sessions per day was increased from 2 - 3.





## Narrowboat – broad ambitions



Our 'grand old lady of the canals' started the year looking shiny and *anything but old* after the refurbishment programme funded by TGWU was completed. Once back as a working vessel *Trebalisa* carried out an impressive 55 trips (not including boat turns or trips to the boat yards for servicing etc.) carrying a total of 795 passengers. These ranged from children and young people with additional needs, adults with sensory impairments, our own Little Explorers, support groups for those celebrating birthdays and meeting Santa on four Christmas trips. We even hosted a man proposing to his (now) fiancé and a newly updated version of our pirate themed boat trip.

We also ran a number of trips on behalf of Wolverhampton Council's children and young people's team. There was even a specially arranged trip for a trainee police dog who was experiencing a range of different environments as part of her training programme. As you can see *Night*, pictured with her handler on board *Trebalisa*, was keen to take everything in as she made her way along the canal.



## Open Day 2021

In September, Wildside held an open day. The aim of the day was to raise the profile of the range of activities we offer to the local communities and promote the benefits of engaging with the 'nature on everyone's doorstep'. The day offered visitors the opportunity to try out some of our activities free of charge and to find out more about some of our partner organisations including the Canal and River Trust and Urban Moorings.



The day attracted 203 visitors of whom approximately 60% stated they had not engaged with Wildside before, and although the aim of the day was to increase awareness rather than raise funds, the day did generate £480 thanks to stalls such as tombola and cake sales.

## Finance and Funding

As has been reported on earlier, the difficulties faced by the centre due to the lockdown periods of 2020-21 were lessened this year, however there were still challenges to be faced as the centre had to respond to an ever-changing set of statutory requirements based on the continuing presence of Covid. Limiting the numbers of participants was the main issue faced when organising activities; this was particularly relevant to narrowboat trips which meant that numbers continued to be restricted for a significant proportion of 2021 due to the confined space in which passengers needed to be accommodated.

User numbers did rise above those of the previous year, however not to the levels of pre-Covid years. This was particularly notable with regard to schools, where external trips and activities were not re-introduced regularly into the curriculum until 2022.

Income did remain healthy for the period when the centre was able to open fully. Take-up for activities was robust, particularly for the school holiday programmes.

Due to the increased levels of activity (despite the ongoing restrictions), Wildside was able to report a small surplus of £1,457 following on from last year's reported deficit of £2,072. The Board feel that this is a positive outcome and is due to the continued hard work of staff and volunteers responding to the continued challenges faced by an organisation which has working with members of the public at its core.

There is a marked increase in income generated through the various activities, whilst there is a reduction in reported restricted grants, however this is due in the main to the capital element of the Reaching Communities, National Lottery project funding for the toilet refurbishment work being exhausted in 2020/21 after work was completed by the end of the financial year.

Lottery grant monies remained in place to fund the Business Development Manager and Project Officer posts and additional funding was secured from the John Lewis Foundation (Employment Support Project Officer) which helped to develop the scope of the centre's work during the year.

The **income** that the Centre receives is split between Unrestricted Funds (money earned or donated that is available to meet the day to day costs of the Centre) or Restricted Funds (money that can only be used for purposes laid down by the donor). The Restricted income can vary dramatically from year to year dependent upon what grants are awarded – this type of income has to be shown in the year that it is received, though it may be used in the next or subsequent years.

**Expenditure:** a significant proportion of the Staff Costs and all of the Project expenditure continue to be funded from the Grants/Gifts income shown above. Expenditure increased in the majority of areas this year as the costs associated with offering a greater number of activities grew. The reduction in the salary expenditure from year 20/21 to year 20/22 is due to the salaries of grant funded staff now being allocated directly to the appropriate grant. This has been done to provide better budgetary control during the year. With this new reporting of salary expenditure one might expect the Projects expenditure to show a disparity between the years, however 20/21 Projects costs include the total expenditure on the toilet refurbishment (as detailed above).

A detailed review of our financial position for the year is provided in our audited accounts which are included at the end of this report.

## Centre staff and Board members 2021/22

Kat Baptie	Environmental Activity Worker
Caroline (Caz) Cox	Environmental Activity Worker
Andy Coulter	Employment Support Project Lead
Mark Hand	Business Development Manager
Chris Hopkins	Cycling Instructor (freelance)
Mike Jenkins	Environmental Activity Worker
Katherine Jones	Environmental Activity Worker
Manni Kaur	Project Officer (National Lottery)
Dave King	Narrowboat Skipper
Kumla Kumar	Centre Cleaner (part year)
Linda McCabe	Programme Coordinator – job share
Chris Munton-Evans	Conservation Project Leader
Sera Perry	Environmental Activity Worker
Phil Playford	Environmental Activity Worker
Neil Postins	Cycling Instructor (freelance)
Phil Roberts	Canoe Instructor (freelance)
Chris Round	Narrowboat Skipper
Sue Shanks	Environmental Activity Worker
Phil Smith	Narrowboat Skipper
Elise Stewart	Our Space Project Coordinator
Tony Stewart	Narrowboat Skipper
Stephanie Twilley	Environmental Activity Worker
Angela Wainwright	Programme Coordinator – job share

## Board Members 2020/21

Liz Ashwell (Chair)  
Sukhminder Chahal  
Steve Downs (part year).  
Brian Fereday  
Len Kruczek  
Rob Marris (Vice-Chair)  
Ellen Potts  
Kevin Sankey

*"Our boys were amazed and James so relaxed and settled on board.  
The crew both genuinely kind, helpful and friendly people. We would  
really like to return again one day soon."*

*KT, June 2021*



We would like to acknowledge with real gratitude the support of the following organisations during 2020/21

Asda Foundation  
Big Give Green Grants  
Canal and River Trust  
Creative Black Country  
Cycling UK - Big Bike Revival  
Enovert Community Trust  
Harry Payne Fund  
John Lewis Community Fund  
Postcode Local Trust  
Reaching Communities (National Lottery)  
Tettenhall Rotary Club  
The James Beattie Trust  
Transport and General Workers Sick and Distress Fund

We would also like to thank the many individuals and families who have generously given donations to help develop the Centre's work.

*"Our group consists of 70 adults with learning disabilities and we regularly attend sessions at Wildside and always receive a warm welcome. Even though the needs of some of our members are quite complex, the staff are accommodating and clearly have a passion to make their site accessible to all. The sessions they run are fun and informative, connect members with nature and their local community, and help develop interests and skills"*

*High Flyers, February 2022*



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# Reports and Financial Statements

Wildside Activity Centre

31st March 2022

Registered Company Number: 03241721

Registered Charity Number: 1059246

A Company Limited by Guarantee

Haines Watts Wolverhampton Limited  
Chartered Accountants

Keepers Lane  
The Wergs  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV6 8UA

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## Reference and administrative information

<b>Registered Name</b>	Wildside Activity centre
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	1059246
<b>Registered Company Number</b>	03241721
<b>Address of Registered Office</b>	Hordern Road Whitmore Reans Wolverhampton WV6 0HA
<b>Charity Trustees</b>	Liz Ashwell (Chair) Rob Marris (Vice-Chair) Sukhminder Chahal Stephen Downs (from 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021) Brian Fereday Len Kruczek Ellen Potts Kevin Sankey
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Mark Hand
<b>Company Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
<b>Company Accountants</b>	Haines Watts Wolverhampton Limited Chartered Accountants Keepers Lane Wolverhampton WV6 8UA

made at Board level, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Company and Charity law as well as the company's financial regulations.

### **Risks to the centre and its Activities**

During the year the Board has continued to review the risks facing the centre as part of its normal ongoing management process. This process has highlighted a number of issues:

Core funding from Wolverhampton Council under its Service Level agreement ceased in May 2014. The General Reserves were depleted by the redundancy payments necessary. The Board continues however to hold a General Reserve to mitigate risks and has also established a Special Purposes Fund (for Pension Deficit costs and other long-term liabilities). The centre holds insurance for Public Liability (at £5 million) and Employers' Liability (at £10 million).

Working with Young People – The safety of young people in our care is paramount and the centre has rigorous child protection procedures and a Health & Safety policy in place to reduce significantly the possibility of any problems arising.

Working with Vulnerable Adults – The centre's work with people with disabilities and other vulnerable adults has been steadily increasing and is covered by the centre's Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy.

The safety of the narrowboat operation is governed by the licensing system of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in relation to the soundness of the vessel and the training and qualifications of the skippers.

Financial Mismanagement – The centre has a robust set of Financial Regulations which sets out clearly the management of the centre finances.

The Board will review risk on a periodic basis and ensure that policies and procedures are put in place to meet the current needs of the centre.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Aims and Objectives**

The Memorandum of Association of the centre details the Aims and Objectives of the organisation as:

"To provide a Community centre to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood by the advancement of education and the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for the recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the quality of life for the said inhabitants."

### **Activities**

The centre is a charity and its principal activity is the provision of adventurous and environmental education to the people and communities of Wolverhampton. To achieve this objective, the centre operates a number of areas - these being: general centre activities, the narrowboat and the Conservation Volunteers.

### **General Activities**

These comprise a diverse range of activities reflecting the wide focus of the centre's work, the main ones being:

- environmental activities - to teach all ages and abilities in a practical, fun-filled way about the local natural environment and how to protect it.
- adventurous activities - to give users a taste of more challenging types of activity (such as canoeing, cycling or orienteering). The aspects of working in a team and problem solving are also important
- conservation volunteering – to make improvements to habitat and enhance the environment in the interests of a diverse wildlife

Charges are made for all the general centre activities, unless they are subsidised by specific charitable donations. The Board endeavours to keep charges affordable, particularly with regard to the holiday programmes for children and families so that they remain accessible to local residents. A concession scheme is available for families on low income to help them access the holiday activities.

### **Narrowboat**

The narrowboat 'Trebalisa' was acquired under Urban Programme funding in 1992 and is used for taking groups on canal trips. It provides a unique opportunity for all age groups in Wolverhampton to see and experience local history and water based wildlife from a totally different perspective. Some of our users may not have been on a boat before. The restrictions surrounding Covid-19 had eased during the year, allowing for a greater use of the narrowboat than in the previous 12 months and after returning from its refurbishment in April 2021, was used regularly throughout the year. Trebalisa underwent an in-water inspection and was successfully awarded its Passenger Safety Certificate in June 2021. The out of water inspection has been scheduled for May 2022 when painting of the hull (blackening) will also take place.

### **Conservation Volunteers**

This group is led by a fully experienced part-time member of staff. They undertake a range of practical environmental conservation projects in and around Wolverhampton. The group engages in environmental tasks from wetland management and tree planting to woodland crafts and coppicing. The group was able to reconvene on a more regular basis following the easing of restrictions during 2021-22, however the core group of volunteers has reduced as some members lost confidence post-Covid and were reluctant to attend groups such as the volunteer programme. During the year the group was able to re-establish links with external organisations including the Friends of the Smestow Valley, Pendeford Mill and WREN. It also developed a connection with Urban Moorings, a community group renovating the canal moorings at Horsley Fields in Wolverhampton.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The difficulties faced by the centre due to the lockdown periods of 2020-21 were lessened this year, however there were still challenges to be faced as the centre had to respond to an ever-changing set of statutory requirements based on the continuing presence of Covid. Limiting the numbers of participants was the main issue faced when organising activities; this was particularly relevant to narrowboat trips which meant that numbers continued to be restricted for a significant proportion of 2022 due to the confined space in which passengers needed to be accommodated

User numbers did rise above those of the previous year, however not to the levels of pre-Covid years. This was in part to the limits on activity places we were able to offer due to national statutory restrictions and also due to an ongoing reluctance on behalf of the public to take part in group/shared activities. This was particularly apparent with regard to schools, where external trips and activities were not re-introduced regularly into the curriculum until 2022.



Income did remain healthy for the period and when the centre was able to fully open, as take-up for activities was robust with waiting lists often a common occurrence particularly for the school holiday programmes.

Despite the challenges there were a number of significant achievements this year:

The centre secured a third phase of funding from partner organisation the Canal and River Trust to continue with its Our Space project. This aims to increase engagement of local communities with the region's canal network. A Project Officer was appointed to lead on the Our Space project in June 2021.

Following the end of ESF funding to support the unemployed through volunteering, a successful application was made to the John Lewis Foundation. As a result, a grant of £10,000 was awarded for a two-year project supporting young people out of the workplace. A Project Officer was appointed in June 2021 to take the project forward.

In October Wildside was given a grant of £50,000 to develop a water source heat pump system at the centre. The grant was awarded through the Enover Trust (a landfill tax grant provider). Following a tender process, the contract for installing the water source heat pump was awarded to specialist organisation Princes LLP. Work is set to commence on the project, Spring 2022.

A grant of £16,000 was secured from the TGWU Benevolent Fund. The money will be used to develop a new outdoor learning space in the woodland at Wildside. The project plans were approved by the Board following consultation with staff and volunteers on requirements for the space and an environmental assessment of the proposed site to ensure the development had minimum impact on the biodiversity and natural environment of the centre's woodland. Planning permission was secured for the project in March 2022. Additional funding is being sought for the groundworks and internal fit of the space prior to work commencing on the project which it is envisaged will commence late summer 2022.

The centre and its users continue to benefit from a series of other grants which enable the Board to offer discounted charges to some of the user groups most in need. These include Creative Black Country, the James Beattie Trust and Cycling UK. There was also a donation of over £5,000 from the estate of a young man who used the centre on many occasions and who dearly loved his time here at Wildside.

As a result of these schemes and the commitment and dedication of the Wildside team, the financial impact on the centre through the continuing challenges presented by Covid was kept to a minimum and we remain deeply grateful to the Trusts, charities, families and individuals who have contributed to funding our work and enabling us to serve the needs of the communities here in Wolverhampton.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

This is the eighth year that the centre has been functioning without any financial support from the City Council which, in the final year, amounted to nearly 70% of the centre's costs. Following the withdrawal of the Council funding, the centre has had to rely heavily on grants, gifts and donations but gradually, and with a lot of hard work from volunteers and staff alike, this dependency is being reduced.

In last year's Financial Review much was said about the effect that Covid had had on the Centre and its finances. This year saw a gradual easing of restrictions (though with several 'two steps forward, one step back' occasions) and a return to a more normal time. The final outcome for 2021/22 on the Unrestricted (General) Fund was a surplus of £2,942 which compares to a deficit of £2,172 in the previous year.



Grants and Donations continued to be of significant importance to the Centre as some of them fund building type work, others fund the provision of specific services such as boat trips for people with disabilities whereas others contribute to the general running costs of the Centre. It is also pleasing to see that, in Charitable Income, the income from Activities and the Narrow Boat have surged back indicating a very positive interest in them.

So, after a very turbulent year the Board views this year's outcome with relief and satisfaction and will continue to monitor the financial situation, maintain a tight control of expenditure and seek out any grants that become available.

## **Reserves Policy**

The centre has adopted a policy of maintaining a General Reserve at a level equivalent to three months of normal running costs. This is the normal margin that charities set and should be sufficient in a financial emergency either to find alternative funding or close down in an orderly manner.

The centre holds Restricted Reserves of:

- £11,372 for Special Purposes, to be used to cover Pension Fund Deficit costs and other long term liabilities.
- £12,000 as a Bridging Reserve to be used for urgent staffing requirements in the long-term absence or sickness of key volunteers or senior staff.
- £25,673 of restricted grants for projects which will probably be completed during 2022-23.

The centre holds a Designated Reserve of £8,200 to be used to supplement the existing office work, which can fluctuate from season to season and, a Building and Boat Maintenance and Development Fund of £3,000 - this is considered essential after the centre assumed responsibility for the building and its fabric.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

The Board continues to work to achieve a more diverse user base to assist future sustainability. Determining how our user base may or may not have changed over the past 12 months continues to be problematic and we will be looking to identify alternative methods for gathering information from our users. This may involve the adoption of new specialist software to enable data to be gathered as part of a digital booking process. School holiday programmes, where they have run, are by default attended by local families with young children. Adults with additional needs are also particularly represented through the activities offered to local services supporting those with learning disabilities. It is our intention to continue to support these groups, but also to try and increase our engagement with other local community groups, particularly those from underrepresented or from the diverse ethnic communities who make up the population of Wolverhampton. The work of the National Lottery Project Coordinator is seen as a key element in helping to achieve this.

The Board will also look into the feasibility of employing a dedicated Centre Co-ordinator to support the day-day operational running of the centre whilst helping to deliver activities as the activity programme offering continues to develop. The BDM will be tasked to provide a business case proposal to the Board for consideration.

Whilst continuing to offer a range of affordable and (where relevant) subsidised activities for the local communities, the centre will also look to develop a programme of activities that are more commercially costed and priced, particularly around the narrowboat which is regarded as an important asset in helping to drive additional income streams through leisure based trips and

excursions. In addition, the work of the BDM will continue to seek to develop relationships with the local business community in order to secure additional income from sponsorships and selling corporate packages based around team building and employee health and wellbeing programmes.

We will look to increase the capacity of the centre by developing a new learning space in the wooded area of the grounds. As highlighted earlier in this report, part funding from TGWU has been secured for the building element and there will be a focus on securing additional funding during the first quarter of 2022/23 in order to complete the project.

The centre will continue to enhance its environmental credentials by installing a water source heat pump which will provide a more sustainable source of energy. Funding from the Enover Trust (detailed earlier in the report) as well as a grant of £5,000 secured from Wolverhampton City Council to purchase a battery system, will enable the project to be completed summer 2022.

We will continue to seek funding in order to develop an additional service arm to support those who may have lost confidence, become more isolated and feel a sense of loss due to Covid, in particular those who are elderly and/or living in residential care homes. The project will help rebuild confidence through re-engaging with the natural world. We would aim to work with social/green prescribing teams within statutory services and the health authority in order to offer an additional resource to which they could refer individuals.

Capital improvements will continue subject to securing funding from grants or commercial support.

The development of a new website continues to be a consideration. The BDM will research providers and submit tenders to the Board for the re-development of the site for consideration at the end of Quarter 2. Engagement on social media channels continues to increase; Facebook follower numbers increased to 3300, 48 followers were added to Wildside's Twitter account and followers to LinkedIn increased by 28 over the period.

The Board will be looking to develop more formal links with the Kingswood Trust in 2022/23. It is felt a partnership would benefit both organisations as they share a similar ethos and values. The BDM will develop a dialogue with representatives from Kingswood in order to agree a proposal to take to the Board of each organisation.

Following an approach by Wolverhampton City Council for Wildside to provide specialist input and resources to support the reopening of West Park conservatory to the general public, a business case proposal was submitted to the Council in March. The proposal would be reliant on securing significant funding (third party grant or sponsorship) to enable the centre to employ a dedicated Project Officer to lead on developments. No response from the Council had been received at the time of writing this report.

We recognise that in the current economic climate, small charities will continue to face levels of uncertainty, but the Board is content that 2021/22 has been another year of progress in key areas against a backdrop of ongoing challenge.

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

Company law requires the Management Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors and trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

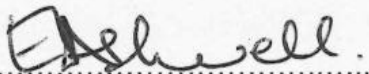
The directors and trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Accountants**

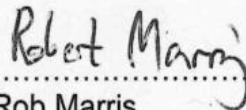
Haines Watts Wolverhampton Limited (Chartered Accountants) were re-appointed as the charitable company's independent examiners and accountants for the year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Management Board on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 signed on its behalf by



Liz Ashwell  
Chair



Rob Marris  
Vice Chair



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wildside Activity Centre Limited**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Signed: *G. T. Hopwood* .....

Geoffrey Hopwood BCOM ACA  
Haines Watts Wolverhampton Limited  
Keepers Lane  
The Wergs  
Wolverhampton  
WV6 8UA

Date *5.10.2022* .....

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Voluntary Income	2	14,178	-	129,446	143,624	189,740
Charitable Activities	3	33,302	-	-	33,302	9,355
Investment Interest		141	-	-	141	440
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>47,621</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,446</u>	<u>177,067</u>	<u>199,535</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Charitable Activities	4	44,679	9,431	101,240	155,350	166,968
Depreciation		-	-	67	67	77
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<u>44,679</u>	<u>9,431</u>	<u>101,307</u>	<u>155,417</u>	<u>167,045</u>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>						
- Net incoming(outgoing) resources for the year	5	<u>2,942</u>	<u>(9,431)</u>	<u>28,139</u>	<u>21,650</u>	<u>32,490</u>
<b>Total funds at 1 April 2021</b>		<u>23,578</u>	<u>20,631</u>	<u>85,126</u>	<u>129,335</u>	<u>96,845</u>
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2022</b>		<u>26,520</u>	<u>11,200</u>	<u>113,265</u>	<u>150,985</u>	<u>129,335</u>

Movement in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	9		383	<u>450</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	10	8,820		500
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>150,892</u>		<u>128,385</u>
		159,712		128,385
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accruals	11	<u>(9,110)</u>	150,602	<u>-</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			150,602	128,885
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>150,985</u>	<u>129,335</u>
<b>Funds</b>				
<b>Restricted</b>				
Fixed Assets Grant		383		
Pension Deficit		11,372		
Bridging Reserve		12,000		
Pears Foundation Fund		5,000		
W-ton Social Advice Group		18,444		
McNamara Fund		5,302		
T&GWU		820		
Alpkit Canoe Equip		100		
John Lewis		13,031		
National Lottery 2021/22 (1)		1,313		
National Lottery 2021/22 (2)		33,778		
CRT Our Space Phase 3		1,128		
Beatties 2022/23		694		
T&GWU (MS Centre)		975		
T&GWU Distress Fund		2,925		
WCC Relight (Heat Pump)		5,000		
CBC Sounds of Green		<u>1,000</u>	113,265	94,557
<b>Designated</b>				
Admin Support		8,200		
Building & Boat Mntce/Development		<u>3,000</u>	11,200	11,200
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General fund - Bfwd		23,578		
- Current year		<u>2,942</u>	26,520	23,578
<b>Total Funds</b>	12		<u>150,985</u>	<u>129,335</u>



## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 - continued

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

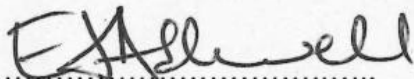
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the 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 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 company.

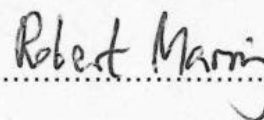
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Liz Ashwell.....  
Chair



Rob Marris.....  
Vice Chair



# Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

## 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS102, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.
- (b) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- (c) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- (d) Incoming resources from investments is included when receivable.
- (e) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (f) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life.

Narrowboat Centre Equipment	Over 15 years straight line 15% Reducing balance
--------------------------------	---
- (g) General funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.
- (h) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific future purposes or projects.
- (i) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (j) The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Income and Expenditure account as incurred.
- (k) The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The contributions to the scheme are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account so as to spread the cost of pensions over the service lives of employees. Variations from the regular costs are spread over the average expected remaining working lives of current members in the scheme.

## 2. Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	420	-	420	472
Gifts and donations	11,930	-	11,930	11,275
Grants – General	-	129,446	129,446	160,354
Other Income	1,127	-	1,127	16,939
Gifts in kind – accountancy	700	-	700	700
	<u>14,177</u>	<u>129,446</u>	<u>143,623</u>	<u>189,740</u>

## 3. Incoming Resources – Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
General Activities	20,354	-	20,354	4,291
Narrow boat	6,306	-	6,306	1,207
Volunteers	1,060	-	1,060	390
Lettings	1,611	-	1,611	46
Use of Facilities	3,331	-	3,331	3,421
Miscellaneous Sales	640	-	640	-
	<u>33,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,302</u>	<u>9,355</u>

## 4. Resources Expended – Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs - General	54,963	-	-	54,963	82,849
Premises	14,758	-	-	14,758	5,472
Travel	-	-	-	-	22
Communications	1,944	-	-	1,944	459
Admin Supplies	2,373	-	-	2,373	1,167
Resources & Governance	1,119	-	-	1,119	2,927
Boat	4,688	-	-	4,688	1,543
Projects	-	-	72,551	72,551	71,644
Other	2,254	-	-	2,254	185
Governance costs – Independent examiners fee	700	-	-	700	700
	<u>82,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,551</u>	<u>155,350</u>	<u>166,968</u>
Cost apportionment	(38,120)	9,431	28,689	-	-
	<u>44,679</u>	<u>9,431</u>	<u>101,240</u>	<u>155,350</u>	<u>166,968</u>



## 5. Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	67	77
Independent examiners fees	700	700

During 2022 and 2021 no payments were made to the members of the Management Board for remuneration or travel costs.

## 6. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	49,862	73,959
Social security costs	1,006	2,128
Pension contributions-Defined contributions	997	980
Pension contributions-Defined benefit	3,098	5,782
	<b><u>54,963</u></b>	<b><u>82,849</u></b>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000. The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was 1.6. During the year 1 employee paid pension contributions under a defined contribution scheme and 5 employees paid pension contributions under a defined benefit scheme.

## 7. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

## 8. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the funded scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested with insurance companies. Contributions to the scheme are charges to the income and expenditure account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the company. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent valuation began March 2022, with provisional results available from November 2022.

## 9. Tangible fixed assets

	Narrowboat £	Centre Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	37,257	21,141	58,398
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	37,257	20,691	57,948
Charge for the year	-	67	67
At 31 March 2022	<u>37,257</u>	<u>20,758</u>	<u>58,015</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>383</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>450</u>

## 10. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
General debtors	<u>8,820</u>	<u>500</u>

## 11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	<u>9,110</u>	<u>-</u>

## 12. Capital and Reserves

	Balance at 1 Apr 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Grant Amortisation £	Balance at 31 Mar 2022 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Grant for Fixed Assets	450	-	-	(67)	383
Pension Deficit	11,372	-	-	-	11,372
Bridging Reserve	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
Stafford Boat Club	811	-	(811)	-	-
Pears Foundation	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
W-ton Social Advice Group	18,444	-	-	-	18,444
McNamara Fund	-	5,302	-	-	5,302
<b>National Lottery –</b>					
Grant for 2020/21	31,481		(31,481)	-	-
Grant for 2021/22 (1)		33,778	(32,465)		1,313
Grant for 2021/22 (2)		33,778	-		33,778
Capital Works		10,210	(10,210)		-
	31,481	77,766	(74,156)		35,091
<b>Project Grants</b>					
Groundwork Tesco Bags	369	-	(369)	-	-
Beatties 20/21	388	-	(388)	-	-
Rotary 21/22	200	-	(200)	-	-
CRT Our Space Phase 2	3,661	-	(3,661)	-	-
T&GWU	950		(130)		820
Alpkit		200	(100)		100
John Lewis		19,208	(6,177)		13,031
Big Bike Revival 2021		3,000	(3,000)		-
CRT Our Space Phase 3		10,000	(8,872)		1,128
Beatties 2022/23		3,100	(2,406)		694
T&GWU (Distress Fund)		2,925			2,925
T&GWU (MS Centre)		975			975
Cycling UK BBR 6		970	(970)		-
WCC Relight (Heat Pump)		5,000			5,000
CBC Sounds of Green		1,000			1,000
	5,568	46,378	(26,273)		25,673
	85,126	129,446	(101,240)	(67)	113,265
<b>Designated Fund</b>					
Admin Support	8,200	-	-	-	8,200
Building & Boat Mntce & Dev	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
WCC National Covid Grant	1,334	-	(1,334)	-	-



WCC Covid Bus. Support	<u>8,097</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,097)</u>	-	<u>-</u>
	<u>20,631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,431)</u>		<u>11,200</u>

## 12. Capital and Reserves (cont.)

### Unrestricted Fund

General Fund	<u>23,578</u>	<u>47,621</u>	<u>(44,679)</u>	-	<u>26,520</u>
	<u>129,335</u>	<u>177,067</u>	<u>(155,350)</u>	<u>(67)</u>	<u>150,985</u>

### Purpose of funds

#### Restricted Funds

##### Grant for Fixed Assets

This represents the written down value of the grant provided for the building/boat.

##### Pension Deficit Fund

This was provided specifically to cover any relevant costs and other long term liabilities should the centre be unable to continue in operation.

##### Bridging Reserve

This is to be used for urgent staffing requirements in the long-term absence or sickness of key volunteers or senior staff.

##### Pears Foundation

This fund is for the consolidation of recently developed activities.

##### Wolverhampton Social Advice Group

This was to be used for the development of the centre's main activities

##### National Lottery – Wellbeing at Wildside

This grant was for therapeutic activity sessions for people living with the effects of disabilities, poor mental health or long term health needs.

##### McNamara Fund

This is a legacy and is to be used to provide support and services for people in the local area.

##### T&GWU Distress Fund

This was given to provide boat trips and other activities for disabled groups.

##### CBC Sounds of Green

This is to create a soundscape of the canals in the area.

##### John Lewis

This is to help and support people into employment

##### WCC Relight

This is for the heat pump needed for the new heating system for the Centre

##### Other Project Grants

During the year grants are provided for specific projects.

### **Designated Funds**

#### **Admin Support**

The administrative work of the centre fluctuates from season to season and this fund will be used to supplement the existing office work as necessary.

#### **Building & Boat Maintenance and Development**

The centre is now responsible for the structure of the building and, with the boat, needs a fund to cover inevitable future major costs.

### **Unrestricted Fund**

#### **General fund**

This is the amount at the end of the year that is available to the Trustees to use in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

### **13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	383	383
Net Current Assets	<u>26,520</u>	<u>11,200</u>	<u>112,882</u>	<u>150,602</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>26,520</u></b>	<b><u>11,200</u></b>	<b><u>113,265</u></b>	<b><u>150,985</u></b>




Thank you to everyone who gave their time, skills,  
passion and commitment to Wildside this year. It may  
be a cliched thing to say, but...

...we couldn't do what we do without you!





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