

# EAT CARY

Registered Charity No. 1154857

## 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements

1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to  
31 March 2022



# **EAT CARY**

Registered Charity No. 1154857

## **Annual Report for 2021/22**

### **Introduction**

We have largely recovered from the constraints of the Covid pandemic and Saturday afternoons have again become a time in the week when we try to meet up to work together and have tea and cake. But everyone is still free to come up at other times to work and harvest. Indeed the unusually hot summer made it imperative to carry out additional watering and plant care, and an evening visit as the day cooled down was a necessity but also a pleasure – sometimes with a glorious sunset thrown in.

### **Site improvement and maintenance**

This year we have been catching up on maintaining and repairing some of the holes in the polytunnel and have invented a means of butyl taping replacement sections into the skin. There are several tears on the top skin. We are intending to hire a cherry picker this month to access the top of the polytunnel and also clean the surface.

This year a boundary fence has been erected separating the school area from the EatCary area. This provides a means to prevent the school's dog frequenting the site and has proved very effective. There is a removable section to allow vehicular access to the EatCary area for major deliveries etc.

The powered equipment is very much showing its age (10 years) however the trend this year has been to reduce the amount of mowing and leave as much as possible for wilding, so the general demand on the equipment has been less. Indeed, EatCary has purchased a scythe and sharpening equipment with a view to using this to replace or reduce the dependence on fossil fuelled mowers and equipment. In the spring we will sell off some of the redundant equipment.

The watering system has performed very well with minimal failure or breakdowns thanks to Steven Rymer and David Holmes. A big thank you to both. The wet beds for seedlings are effective, especially as we have workers willing to come up mid-week to replenish them in hot weather.

We purchased two solid oak raised beds, locally grown and made! These have replaced the failing existing ones. We aim to purchase more in spring 2023 as the remaining old ones deteriorate.

## Growing regime

Exceptional weather this summer made growing anything outdoors quite a challenge. Things coming on earlier – lettuces, broad beans, onions and garlic planted last year, forage beans (meant as green manure but we also ate some!), turnips, sweet peas – and things coming on more recently – carrots, runner and borlotti beans, beetroot – have all done reasonably well, but where the ground became just too dry and we were not able to water adequately we have suffered – potatoes, raspberries, fennel, rhubarb and the Hugelhumps in particular. The strawberry bed was a disaster; partly due to the plants getting old and tired, so we are going for a restart with these – all old plants pulled out and the bed given a good dose of compost ready for new plants in the spring.



*Crystal lemon cucumber and watermelon - exciting new crops in the polytunnel.*

In the polytunnel it has been a different story; the timed water feed has provided a good regular supply and almost everything in there has done well – tomatoes, cucumbers, some wonderful melons, watermelons and sweet potatoes (these are a profusion of leaves at present – it remains to be seen what's under the surface!). Some good aubergines and peppers too; only disappointments seem to have been the cucamelons which have not done nearly as well as in previous years and we have missed the little snacks they provide. The temperature in the polytunnel rose to 45 degrees Celsius on occasion and this seems to have impacted some of the aubergines and peppers adversely. They are recovering now the weather has changed and producing a welcome further flush of produce..

Composting – we have maintained good regular input to our compost-generating boxes and have produced some useful material. There never seems to be enough, but it is worth doing and we need to ensure good regular rotation of the boxes. We have also been using liquid nettle and comfrey feed we prepared last year and are busy making more – smelly but effective. The huge load of mushroom compost we have bought in should provide most of what we need for the coming year, so we can be generous with it – the raspberries, currants and gooseberries could all do with a good dose.



*The outside growing area in early summer*

The currants and gooseberries which we rescued from pots and bags early in the year and planted out, have managed to survive the dry weather, and with a bit of feeding, should crop well next year. The rhubarb is not doing well and is not a very tasty variety; could do with replacing.

Also planted along the edge nearest the road were some fruit trees – 3 apples, 1 Victoria plum, 1 damson, and a small 'unknown' plum. This last one has died, but the others are doing well and should produce a small crop next year.

We already grow and encourage flowers as companion planting and for pollinators to enjoy. This season David has introduced a bit more diversity in our plant range by planting a few shrubs and small trees – including a mimosa, a bottlebrush, a bay and we have space for more.

In the polytunnel the old grapevine has been removed and gives us another place where something new might be introduced.

## **Recruitment and links with other organisations and agencies.**

Castle Cary is growing, and so is the Eat Cary group! This year has brought forward a steady stream of interested and interesting new members, with diverse skills and ideas, or who simply have some spare time to help out. Community awareness continues to be promoted via the Castle Cary and Ansford newsletter and website, as well as through leaflets in shops and notice boards.

It is so important that youngsters experience the joys of growing vegetables and learn about how food is produced. Following a difficult two years the Beavers will be able to resume their involvement next spring and so we have allocated space for them. The Toybox Preschool will also restart regular sessions and we have many tiny tools and barrows for the youngsters to run around with and, of course, get grubby!



*Winning exhibits - lavender biscuits and cherry tomatoes*

We were very happy to have the help of a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme silver award student last year, and now we have recruited another who has already proved her worth. As well as work in the polytunnel she is in the process of helping us compile a cookbook focusing on recipes using our produce..

EatCary entered the Castle Cary Gardening Association 2022 Show. The standard of competition was really high despite the heatwave and drought so we were really thrilled to win awards in a number of classes, including a first prize for delicious biscuits flavoured with EatCary lavender as well as two second, one third and a highly commended in the produce classes. Our competitive side was ignited and next year can't

come soon enough!

Our annual harvest event for members, family and friends was a huge success. All food was provided by the members and prepared from EatCary produce and the table was groaning! We are incredibly lucky to have such a talented and diverse group of people who provided a veritable feast from vegetables originating from around the world.

## The future

We are looking now with all our volunteers at what we will grow for the coming year: Ideas include:

- The raised beds are an important area for growing various things (it seems that carrots are good in these beds provided they are “armoured” against badgers). We want to grow more carrots.
- Experiment with pruning the raspberries – Gardners’ World recently suggested pruning some to just half way down to get both early and late crops.
- As usual we have tried experimental crops this year – celeriac, Florence fennel, asparagus peas – with varying success and we shall find new experiments for the coming



*Air Bee&Bee - a hotel for friendly fauna*

year. We will also experiment with new methods of managing and protecting our crops. One of the exciting advantages of our communal garden is that we have space to do this and learn from the results.

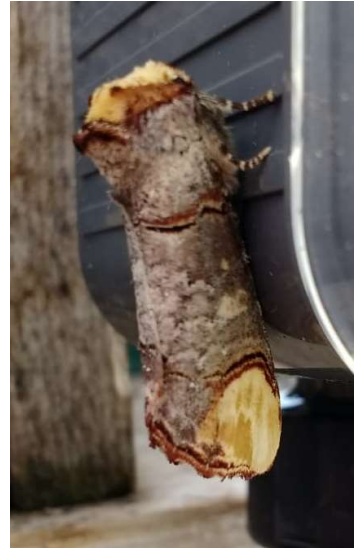
- Consider planting wheat somewhere to produce our own flour; we could then produce food dishes made entirely from our own produce. There’s a challenge!

We continue to garden organically, and to encourage biodiversity and environmental sustainability. We hope the local wildlife

appreciates the bug hotel we have built it (named Air Bee&Bee). We are rewarded for our efforts by the increasing variety of insects and small creatures we observe on site.

We think that with adequate patching our polytunnel skin will last one more year but we must seriously consider what happens after that – and it may require some serious fundraising in order to replace the skin with a new one. We need to review all our equipment both manual and mechanical to consider what replacements we might need in the future.

Our lease comes up for renewal next year, and discussions with Ansford Academy over this will need to be a focus.



*No, it's not a twig. It's a moth!*



# EAT CARY

## Legal and administrative information

**Charity Registration Number:** 1154857; **Date of registration:** 4 December 2013

**Financial Year:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Trustees at 1 April 2021:**

Bernie Logan, Tim Earle-Marsh, Rosemary Rymer, Laura Tilling, Nuri Fontanals

**Resignation at 2021 AGM:** Ida West

**Terms of Office ending at 2022 AGM:** Laura Tilling

**Coopted during 2021/22:** David Holmes and Rosemary Rayner.

To be formally proposed for election at 2022 AGM

**Objects:**

To advance in life and help local people through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

To advance the education of the public, including the pupils at Ansford Academy, in the subjects of horticulture, gardening, cooking, healthy eating and related topics.

To advance the education of the local community in the sustainable use, protection and improvement of the natural environment.

**Correspondence address:**

Marshland, Station Road, Castle Cary, BA7 7BX

**Primary Bankers:**

The Co-operative Bank Community Direct Plus account

# EAT CARY

Registered Charity No. 1154857

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
<b>Income analysis:</b>		
Donation	£ 931.12	£ 5.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£931.12</b>	<b>£ 5.00</b>
<b>Expenditure analysis:</b>		
Infrastructure		£ 387.93
Raised Beds	£260.00	
Water butt	£ 36.99	
Water timers	£ 51.90	
Padlock, key safe, etc	£ 40.08	
Sundries	£ 67.30	
Insurance	£100.80	£ 100.80
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£ 588.07</b>	<b>£ 488.73</b>
<b>Bank reconciliation</b>		
Balance at 31.03.21:	£1,593.10	£2,076.83
Income for year:	£ 931.12	£ 5.00
Expenditure for year:	£ 588.07	£ 488.73
Balance at bank on 31.03.22:	£1,936.15	£1,593.10

**Independent Examiner's Report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**Report to the Trustees of Eat Cary (Registered Charity Number 1854857)  
on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparations of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of sections 43(2) Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you trustees concerning any matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
- 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

12 / 10 / 22

Name:

GEORGE LAWSON.

Address:

UNDERWOODS  
WESTON BAMPFYLDE  
YEDVIL  
SOMERSET  
BA 22 7HV.