

# FRIENDS OF FOUNDRY WOOD

England & Wales · Charity number 1157820

## Details

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**Other names** FOFW

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-07-14

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 11 Edmondscote Road  
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**Website** [www.foundrywood.co.uk](http://www.foundrywood.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1)TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION,PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE URBAN WOODLAND RESOURCE THAT IS FOUNDRY WOOD FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS;AND 2)TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE AREAS OF WILDLIFE,WOODLANDS,ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TRADITIONAL CRAFTS.

**Activities:** 1) To promote the conservation, protection & improvement of the urban woodland resource that is Foundry Wood for the public benefit of current and future generations; and2) To advance public education in the areas of wildlife, woodlands, environmental protection and traditional crafts

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Warwickshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £11,042 | £2,516      | -      | -         |
| 2024-03-31 | £2,094  | £757        | -      | -         |
| 2023-03-31 | £3,166  | £19,912     | -      | -         |
| 2022-03-31 | £7,452  | £8,495      | -      | -         |
| 2021-03-31 | £20,596 | £1,731      | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                           | Role  | Appointed  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------|
| <b>KRISTIE ELIZABETH NAIMO</b> | Chair | 2013-11-27 |
| Daniel James Champion          |       | 2013-11-27 |
| KATHERINE PASTEUR              |       | 2013-11-27 |
| Kayleigh Ann Brookes           |       | 2023-05-14 |

**FRIENDS OF FOUNDRY WOOD**

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# Accounts

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## AGENDA 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Welcome

Chairs Report including summary of year- Kristie

Finance report – Dan

Resignation/Election of new Trustees (Sarah, renewal for Kath, Kristie, Dan), any new?

What's coming up – Heather or Kath

Q&A

Chair Report – April 2024 – end March 2025

Welcome and thank you everyone for coming.

I'm Kristie Naimo - Chair of Friends of Foundry Wood - joined today by a number of our FoFW Trustees and Steering Group – say hello.

There are 10 of us now. We meet every 2 months – either in the woods or nearby indoors in winter – to discuss ideas, projects, ongoing woodland care-taking and maintenance of the wood.

Continue to run and manage a greatly appreciated asset for Leamington and Warwick – and entirely run by volunteers and this organisation wouldn't run without you!

- The Steering Group are all volunteers
- Volunteers who open and close the gates each day
- Volunteers run our monthly volunteer mornings
- Volunteers deliver many (although not all) of our sessions such as wildlife monitoring (bird, butterfly, mammal watch etc)

The **Sidings** – more work – esp on clearing the Silver Birch at far end to open up. Also finally installed a railway boundary marker post that was found on the woodland site way back in 2012. Badger set continues to be occupied by foxes (videos on website) and other interesting plants. As the signage shows - NOT intending open all the time due to sensitive nature of site but we do open up on volunteer days and other occasions – like today!

**Wildlife Camera** continues to record evidence of activities in the wood – you can see lots of posts with videos and pictures on our website – we've seen badgers, foxes, muntjac deer, hedgehog!

We occasionally have groups come and help with larger projects in the wood – this past year we've welcomed A Band of Brothers (a charity providing mentoring and support for men in the criminal justice system) who did some great work clearing buddleia and silver birch on The Sidings. As well as removing the Willow Tunnel which had become very overgrown and woody.

Another group we've been hosting since last summer is Year 10 girls from local Kingsley school – Friday afternoon volunteering. They've helped maintain the wood – including starting to replant the willow tunnel!

**Green Flag** awarded once again and one of our Trustees Sarah was able to attend the Award ceremony at nearby Coombe Abbey

Continue woodland maintenance – coppicing hazel in rotation you will have noticed. As per woodland management plan we will continue

Received generous donation from Per Temps – unrestricted funds which Dan will talk more about

**Challenges** in past year:

Some issues with tap at the entrance leaking and being over charged for water use – dealing with that and aim to have new standpipe

Annual external playground inspection keeps us on track (As well as our woodland management plan)

No major vandalism but always keeping an eye out for any issues

**Upcoming events in the wood**

Foundry wood continues to be a well used community resource and there is something taking place nearly every day of the week!

**Mondays** (from tomorrow!) a new Forest School group (largely aimed at home educated children) – called Closer look at Nature

**Tuesdays** - Wellbeing in Nature for adults, run by ARC who co-manage the site and have the leases of the land and with Network Rail on The Sidings

**Weds** – Singing for Joy in the morning followed by a children’s storytelling group in the afternoon (Magical World of Stories)

**Fridays** – Muddy Puddles mini Forest schools in the morning

Alongside this we have regular monthly volunteer mornings (last Sunday of each month), pizza making days in the summer, adhoc school and after school groups (like brownies, cubs etc) visits. And sometimes seasonal evening events around the full moon or solstice. Many of these are organised by other groups and individuals – so not all delivered by The Friends of Foundry Wood!

**Coming up in 2025**

- we welcome back the fabulous **Mikron** Theatre who will be performing one of their season’s shows – HUSH (about Bletchly park) – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> August

- At the end of August we’ll likely have a stall at **EcoFest** in the Pump Room Gardens – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> August

- In September we welcome Warwickshire Mammal Group to do their annual **mammal monitoring** Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sept and that evening we have **Swedes in the trees** again – an electronic music dance evening run by a local group of musicians! Plus more events added throughout the year – keep an eye on the website and newsletter

**Woodland Maintenance** – we review our woodland maintenance plan every year. Again the latest one can be found on the website. Coming up this year you might notice that we start to clear some areas of the very dense hawthorn that dominates the wood . This is with a view to letting a little more light into the understory and possibly re-planting with more variety of tree species. Small areas to start with so not a dramatic impact on what is a very small woodland space!

Plans for the **pond** – more pond plants to be purchased this year and once again we’ve observed a healthy newt population – and noticed more pond snails this year! The pond sign will also be updated at some point.

No further planting or development of **The Sidings** – other than possibly putting a bench in at the far end. Detailed review of The Sidings to be undertaken at the next Steering Group meeting in the summer.

We encourage you to come visit Foundry Wood in the coming year!

April 24 Position

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Balance</b> | <b>£11,075.07</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|

| <b>Income</b>                              | <b>Amount</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Grants                                     |               |
| Donations- Local Giving & Easy Fundraising | £873.26       |
| Donations- One offs/Cheques                | £10,168.94    |
| Bank interest                              | £0.00         |

**Income £11,042.20**

| <b>Outgoings</b>                 | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Local giving costs               | £180.00       |
| Ecofest costs                    |               |
| General upkeep & play inspection | £1,263.52     |
| Tree Surgery                     |               |
| Outdoor camera costs             |               |
| Marketing & Website Costs        | £98.56        |
| Network rail land fencing costs  |               |
| Moth morning costs               | £75.00        |
| Pond Costs                       |               |
| Tools & padlocks                 |               |
| Entertainment costs              |               |
| Gravel, paint & signage costs    | £148.00       |
| Donation                         |               |
| Water Plus (Severn Trent)        | £750.77       |

**Outgoings £2,515.85**

April 25 position

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bank Account</b> | <b>£19,601.42</b> |
| Cash Float          | £0.00             |
|                     |                   |
|                     | <b>£19,601.42</b> |

**Profit/Loss £8,526.35**

**Draft Annual Expenditure**

|                               |                   |                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Annual Play area maintainence | £ 115.00          |                     |
| Expert talks                  | £ 75.00           | 858.11 local giving |
| Free events expenditure       | £ 100.00          | 15.15 easy          |
| Leaflets & Signs              | £ 300.00          | <u>873.26</u>       |
| Outreach - entertainment      | £ 110.00          | 1108.94 Coop        |
| Severn Trent                  | £ 200.00          | 9000 pertemps       |
| Tools etc                     | £ 100.00          | 60 kristie          |
| Tree surgery                  | £ 1,000.00        | <u>10168.94</u>     |
| Website maintainence          | £ 120.00          |                     |
| Local Giving costs            | £ 180.00          |                     |
|                               | <b>£ 2,300.00</b> |                     |

**Pending Expenditure**

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
|                      | £ -               |
| <b>Current total</b> | <b>£0.00</b>      |
| Residual balance     | <b>£19,601.42</b> |

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# Accounts

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April 2023 - March 24

Highlights:

**Spring:** Hosted Warwick District Faiths Forum and Cov Natural History Society for tours including of The Sidings

**Summer:** Pizza Making popular (including incorporating into our AGM in May)

Czech & Slovak group booked for their summer BBQ

Mammal & moth Monitoring took place again over the summer (as well as bird count and butterflies in winter / summer respectively)

Visits from Rainbows, Guides, Scouts, over the summer for pond dipping, den building, bug hunting etc

New Storytelling events

AND Big 10 year anniversary since our opening in June 2013

Theatre and used by external groups - choir, womens group, forest school camps

**Autumn:** Outreach stall at Eco Fest, Talks for WI group and Heritage Open Days

Hosted a Band of Brothers for volunteer sessions

April 23 position

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Balance</b> | <b>£9,738.29</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

| <b>Income</b>                              | <b>Amount</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Grants                                     |               |
| Donations- Local Giving & Easy Fundraising | £1,128.66     |
| Donations- One offs/Cheques                | £965.37       |
| Bank interest                              | £0.00         |

**Income £2,094.03**

| <b>Outgoings</b>                 | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Local giving costs               | £180.00       |
| Ecofest costs                    | £30.00        |
| General upkeep & play inspection | £188.00       |
| Tree Surgery                     | £0.00         |
| Outdoor camera costs             | £40.95        |
| Marketing & Website Costs        | £107.14       |
| Network rail land fencing costs  | £0.00         |
| Moth morning costs               | £75.00        |
| Pond Costs                       | £0.00         |
| Tools & padlocks                 | £0.00         |
| Entertainment costs              | £0.00         |
| Gravel, paint & signage costs    | £0.00         |
| Donation                         | £50.00        |
| Water Plus (Severn Trent)        | £86.16        |

**Outgoings £757.25**

April 24 position

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bank Account</b> | <b>£11,075.07</b> |
| Cash Float          | £0.00             |
|                     |                   |
|                     | <b>£11,075.07</b> |

**Profit/Loss £1,336.78**

### Draft Annual Expenditure

|                               |          |                 |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Annual Play area maintainence | £        | 108.00          |
| Expert talks                  | £        | 75.00           |
| Free events expenditure       | £        | 100.00          |
| Leaflets & Signs              | £        | 300.00          |
| Outreach - entertainment      | £        | 110.00          |
| Severn Trent                  | £        | 85.00           |
| Tools etc                     | £        | 100.00          |
| Tree surgery                  | £        | 1,000.00        |
| Website maintainence          | £        | 120.00          |
| Local Giving costs            | £        | 180.00          |
|                               | <b>£</b> | <b>2,178.00</b> |

### Pending Expenditure

|                      |   |                   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Tree Surgery         | £ | 1,000.00          |
| <b>Current total</b> |   | <b>£1,000.00</b>  |
| Residual balance     |   | <b>£10,075.07</b> |

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# Accounts

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**Registered Charity number 1157820**

## **Trustees Annual Report**

**01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023**

The objectives of the Friends of Foundry Wood (FoFW) CIO are:

- 1) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the urban woodland resource that is Foundry Wood for the public benefit of current and future generations,

and

- 2) To advance public education in the areas of wildlife, woodlands, environmental protection and traditional crafts

**Foundry Wood is co-managed by FoFW and Achieving Results in Communities (ARC) CIC who currently hold the lease on the land.**

**Trustees:** Dan Champion, Heather Haslett, Kristie Naimo, Katherine Pasteur, Sue Deeley (**until May 2023**) Sarah Biddle, Kayleigh Brookes (**from May 2023**)

**Steering Group:** The Trustees, plus Sue Deely (**from May 2023**), Matt Cox, Kate Haines,

### **Achievements for the year to April 2023**

- The Trustees and Steering Group met regularly every two months.
- Kept the wood open to the public and for use by groups.
- We run monthly volunteer mornings for woodland maintenance which are well attended by volunteers of all ages.
- We continued to send a monthly e-newsletter to around 1400 supporters.
- Awarded a sixth Green Flag Community Award in July 2022.
- ARC continued to run their weekly Wellbeing in Nature sessions, now with funding from National Lottery
- Signed, at the end of March 2022, a 15-year lease with Network Rail for use of the disused railway sidings adjacent to the wood.
- Restoration of the pond took place over the autumn/winter 2022 – project was a success and many newts counted!
- Continued to have great support and publicity from local community.

## **Report on activities at the wood in the year to April 2023** *Annual General Meeting*

At the AGM in May 2022, John Hinton performed some songs inspired by the woodland. No Trustees stepped down or needed to request re-election at this AGM.

### *Leasing the adjacent Network Rail Land*

We got access to the Sidings area – ARC signed a lease in March for 15 years. Initial access work completed by many business groups and conducted wildlife surveys with flora, butterfly and mammal groups. Found a badger set with a family of foxes (videos on website) and other interesting plants. NOT intending open all the time due to sensitive nature of site. We will NOT be removing the fence separating the two – part of our lease requirement and felt it suited our liabilities

### *Regular activities*

Regular activities during the year included Adult Wellbeing in Nature and Youth Mentoring sessions (delivered by ARC),, Muddy Puddles (forest school for toddlers), Magical Stories, Singing for Joy, Intuitive Dance, Full Moon Healing Circle. something nearly every day of the week.

### *Nature activities*

We continued to record wildlife activity in the wood with the camera, setting it up in various locations around the wood.

Wildlife Camera continues to record evidence of badger (we have a sett just off site in the Railway bank), foxes, hedgehog and deer.

Volunteers spotted unusual moth, and we held a fungi talk for the first time and had around 50 people attend!

We held our usual moth morning, and adapted recording butterflies during the Big Butterfly Count to allow the public to do this across a longer time period, and submit their results to us electronically.

The Mammal Monitoring morning was held in September.

Species records continued to be collated and shared with Warwickshire County Council Ecological Services, and a member of the Steering Group reported to their annual meeting in March 2023.

We conducted our annual review and updated our Woodland Management Plan for ongoing care-taking in the woods. The Management Plan along with reports and news is regularly updated onto the Foundry Wood website [www.foundrywood.co.uk](http://www.foundrywood.co.uk)

### *Other events*

A Woodland Youth Theatre group was run by a local youth practitioner, culminating in performances at Art in the Park arts festival in August

Theatre performances resumed with shows by Heartbreak, Mikron and Alarum Theatre in the summer.

A 2 day 'Music in the Woods' event was held by an outside organisation called OAF (Open Arts Festivals) and was well attended.

In September we had an information stall at Ecofest 2022 in the Pump Room Gardens.

### *Ongoing fundraising*

We continue to have regular donations from Local Giving, but have also signed up to Easy Fundraising to allow people to donate to Foundry Wood as they shop.

### **Education project**

*The Education sessions are in the main delivered by our co-management organisation ARC and their staff – some of whom are also members of the FOFW Steering Group.*

School and after school visits resumed with bug hunting and pizza making popular choices once again.

### **Friends of Foundry Wood – Annual Accounts to April 2022 submitted separately.**

Income in the year came from ongoing donations, and a one off donation from ASDA of £1,284 for play bark and improvements to the climbing frame play area.

Dan Champion

Treasurer

Friends of Foundry Wood Trustees

|  |                  |                    |                    |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>April 22 position</b>                   |                  |                    |                    |
| <b>Balance</b>                             | <b>26,484.37</b> |                    |                    |
| <b>Income</b>                              | <b>Amount</b>    |                    |                    |
| Grants                                     |                  |                    |                    |
| Donations- Local Giving & Easy Fundraising | 1,322.19         |                    |                    |
| Donations- One offs/Cheques                | 1,844.03         |                    |                    |
| Bank interest                              | -                |                    |                    |
|  |                  | <b>Income</b>      | <b>3,166.22</b>    |
| <b>Outgoings</b>                           | <b>Amount</b>    |                    |                    |
| Local giving costs                         | 96.00            |                    |                    |
| Ecofest costs                              | 25.00            |                    |                    |
| General upkeep & play inspection           | 1,677.33         |                    |                    |
| Tree Surgery                               | 1,224.00         |                    |                    |
| Outdoor camera costs                       | -                |                    |                    |
| Marketing & Website Costs                  | -                |                    |                    |
| Network rail land fencing costs            | 14,785.30        |                    |                    |
| Moth morning costs                         | 75.00            |                    |                    |
| Pond Costs                                 | -                |                    |                    |
| Tools & padlocks                           | -                |                    |                    |
| Entertainment costs                        | 150.00           |                    |                    |
| Gravel, paint & signage costs              | 1,630.58         | <b>Outgoings</b>   | <b>19,912.30</b>   |
| Internet Costs                             | 189.85           |                    |                    |
| Water Plus (Severn Trent)                  | 59.24            |                    |                    |
| <b>April 23 position</b>                   |                  |                    |                    |
| Bank Account                               | 9,738.29         |                    |                    |
| Cash Float                                 | -                |                    |                    |
|  | <b>9,738.29</b>  | <b>Profit/Loss</b> | <b>- 16,746.08</b> |

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Draft Annual Expenditure</b> |                 |
| Annual Play area maintainence   | 115.00          |
| Expert talks                    | 75.00           |
| Free events expenditure         | 100.00          |
| Leaflets & Signs                | 300.00          |
| Outreach - entertainment        | 110.00          |
| Severn Trent                    | 85.00           |
| Tools etc                       | 100.00          |
| Tree surgery                    | 1,000.00        |
| Website maintainence            | 115.00          |
| Local Giving costs              | 100.00          |
|                                 | <b>2,105.00</b> |
| <b>Pending Expenditure</b>      |                 |
| Play Inspection                 | 108.00          |
| Tree Surgery                    | 1,000.00        |
| <b>Current total</b>            | <b>1,108.00</b> |
| <b>Residual balance</b>         | <b>8,630.29</b> |

10 Year picture

|             |               | IN         | OUT        | Severn Trent |
|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| profit/loss | <b>Apr-14</b> | £5,000.00  |            |              |
|             | <b>Apr-15</b> | £358.15    | £400.00    | 54.9         |
|             | <b>Apr-16</b> | £3,933.13  | £4,717.37  | 125.21       |
|             | <b>Apr-17</b> | £1,747.78  | £687.49    | 6.43         |
|             | <b>Apr-18</b> | £6,573.70  | £997.40    | 48.2         |
|             | <b>Apr-19</b> | £1,135.24  | £2,666.06  | 54.92        |
|             | <b>Apr-20</b> | £1,177.33  | £1,925.94  | 61.24        |
|             | <b>Apr-21</b> | £20,596.26 | £1,731.37  | 60.9         |
|             | <b>Apr-22</b> | £7,451.94  | £8,494.98  | 81.08        |
|             | <b>Apr-23</b> | £3,166.22  | £19,912.30 | 59.24        |

Average

|                  |                |            |            |         |
|------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------|
| <b>£4,606.84</b> | <b>Totals</b>  | £46,139.75 | £41,532.91 | £552.12 |
|                  | <b>Average</b> | £5,126.64  | £4,614.77  | £61.35  |
|                  | Diff           |            | £511.87    |         |

**FRIENDS OF FOUNDRY WOOD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1157820

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# Accounts

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**Registered Charity number 1157820**

## **Trustees Annual Report**

**01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022**

The objectives of the Friends of Foundry Wood (FoFW) CIO are:

- 1) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the urban woodland resource that is Foundry Wood for the public benefit of current and future generations,

and

- 2) To advance public education in the areas of wildlife, woodlands, environmental protection and traditional crafts

## **Foundry Wood is co-managed by FoFW and Achieving Results in Communities (ARC) CIC.**

**Trustees:** Dan Champion, Sue Deeley, Heather Haslett, Kristie Naimo, Katherine Pasteur

**Steering Group:** The Trustees, plus Matt Cox, Kate Haines, Karen Down (from September 2021)

## **Achievements for the year to April 2022**

- The Trustees and Steering Group met regularly every two months.
- Kept the wood open to the public and for use by groups, as allowed by the changing pandemic rules.
- The wood continued as a venue for several groups who were unable to meet indoors.
- From Easter 2021, resumed most regular activities, with some ongoing social distancing.
- We continued to send a monthly e-newsletter to around 1400 supporters.
- Completed the classroom extension in July 2021.
- Awarded a fifth Green Flag Community Award in July 2021.

- Ecotherapy Group continued with ongoing funding from the People's Health Trust.
- Signed, at the end of March 2022, a 15-year lease with Network Rail for use of the disused railway sidings adjacent to the wood.
- Raised £5000 in public appeal for legal costs associated with lease.
- Received enough public votes to earn us a grant of £5000 from Severn Trent to restore the pond.
- Continued to have great support and publicity from local community.

## **Report on activities at the wood in the year to April 2022**

### *Recovering from the pandemic*

As Covid restrictions were lifted, most of the regular activities and events at the wood—nature, crafts, well-being and education resumed from late April 2021. Most became pre-booked to control numbers and ensure social distancing.

We were able to hold the May 2021 AGM in the woodland – after two years online.

We removed the one-way system round the wood, and re-opened the compost toilet.

For the second year running, we were not, however, able to hold the usual theatre events in the summer, and a couple of planned events we cancelled, one because of Covid among the cast, the other because of lack of an audience.

### *Annual General Meeting*

At the AGM in May 2021, Heather Haslett was elected for a second three-year term as a Trustee.

### *Extending the classroom*

The extension of the outdoor classroom was fully completed in July 2021. This now provides 60% more covered space than the previous classroom, making it more usable for larger groups and in poor weather.

### *Spark Ignite*

In February 2022, we took part for the second time in a local online arts event SPARK IGNITE. This was a live event, at which we had a stall to tell visitors about the wood. Friends of Foundry Wood Chair Kristie spoke in a session on Arts, Health and Happiness.

### *Leasing the adjacent Network Rail Land*

Discussions with Network Rail (NR) to lease the disused sidings to the south of Foundry Wood continued throughout this period.

We eventually received a draft lease in early December, and this was finally signed on 28 March 2022. (The 15-year lease is held by ARC.)

In late September, NR told us we would be required to pay some £5000 in legal fees. We had made no provision for these, but initiated a campaign that raised the monies from the public in just over 5 weeks.

During the Spring and Summer, NR had worked to clear much of the undergrowth on the sidings land, to fell some trees overhanging the live rail line.

Because of the delays over the lease, we had to negotiate an extension to the Postcode Lottery grant provided to fund the fencing that we need to install as a condition of the lease.

### *Regular activities*

Regular activities that returned during the year included Ecotherapy, Muddy Puddles (forest school for toddlers), Magical Stories, Singing for Joy, Intuitive Dance, Full Moon Healing Circle.

### *Nature activities*

We continued to record wildlife activity in the wood with the new camera bought in November 2020, setting it up in various locations around the wood.

We were not able to hold our usual moth morning because of Covid restrictions, and adapted recording butterflies during the Big Butterfly Count to allow the public to do this across a longer time period, and submit their results to us electronically.

The Mammal Monitoring morning was held in September.

Species records continued to be collated and shared with Warwickshire County Council Ecological Services, and a member of the Steering Group reported to their annual meeting in March 2022.

### *Other events*

We held a number of storytelling events for young children, and in June we able to hold the Myton Pools walk – in collaboration with our local community project. In September we had a stall at Ecofest 21. At the end of October we held a scaled-back Halloween event. The wood also hosted two lantern-making workshops (to make lanterns for Leamington's annual Lantern Parade at Christmas) and a Christmas wreath-making workshop.

In our Christmas newsletter we suggested giving the gift of a tree instead of usual presents.

### *Ongoing fundraising*

We continue to have regular donations from Local Giving, but at the end of 2021 also signed up to Easy Fundraising to allow people to donate to Foundry Wood as they shop.

### **Education project**

The Education sessions are delivered by ARC.

Educational visits to the wood tentatively resumed from September 2021 with just a handful of sessions booked for after-school groups such as guide, scouts or cubs. Bug hunts were the most popular option.

ARC also delivered a number of bespoke nature and craft sessions throughout the summer and October half-term holidays with Entrust Care Partnership - a charity who run workshops and short break activities for disabled children, young people and their families.

## Friends of Foundry Wood – Annual Accounts to April 2022

| April 21 position                          |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Balance</b>                             | <b>£27,527.41</b> |
| <b>Income</b>                              |                   |
| Grants                                     |                   |
| Donations- Local Giving & Easy Fundraising | £6,336.44         |
| Donations- One offs/Cheques                | £1,115.50         |
| Bank interest                              | £0.00             |
| <b>Income</b>                              |                   |
|  | <b>£7,451.94</b>  |
| <b>Outgoings</b>                           |                   |
| Local giving costs                         | £96.00            |
| Live & Local costs                         | £0.00             |
| General upkeep & play inspection           | £475.94           |
| Tree Surgery                               | £0.00             |
| Outdoor camera costs                       | £11.96            |
| Leaflets & Printing costs                  | £0.00             |
| Legal Fees (Network rail land)             | £2,400.00         |
| Ecotherapy Donation                        | £3,000.00         |
| Pond Costs                                 | £0.00             |
| Tools & padlocks                           | £0.00             |
| Outdoor classroom extension                | £2,430.00         |
| Gravel, paint & signage costs              | £0.00             |
| Water Plus (Severn Trent)                  | £81.08            |
| <b>Outgoings</b>                           |                   |
|  | <b>£8,494.98</b>  |
| April 22 position                          |                   |
| <b>Bank Account</b>                        | <b>£26,484.37</b> |
| Cash Float                                 | £16.19            |
|  |                   |
|  | <b>£26,500.56</b> |
| <b>Profit/Loss</b>                         | <b>-£1,043.04</b> |

Income in the year came from ongoing donations, plus the fundraising we did to cover the Network Rail (NR) legal costs.

A number of the items of general outgoings were lower than in past years because of the effects of the pandemic. (Regular items incurring no expenditure this year are shown as £0)

Outdoor classroom costs were the final payment on completion of the extension; legal fees are partial payments – with the balance to be paid in the next fiscal year.

The high cash balance at year end is because we are holding (as mentioned above) £16,000 of the grant from the Postcode Lottery for fencing the NR land, and around £2000 in legal fees yet to be paid. The residual balance will be just under £9000.

Sue Deeley  
Secretary  
Friends of Foundry Wood Trustees

**FRIENDS OF FOUNDRY WOOD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1157820

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# Accounts

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**Registered Charity number 1157820**

**Trustees Annual Report            01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021**

The objectives of the Friends of Foundry Wood (FoFW) CIO are:

- 1) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the urban woodland resource that is Foundry Wood for the public benefit of current and future generations,

and

- 2) To advance public education in the areas of wildlife, woodlands, environmental protection and traditional crafts

**Foundry Wood is co-managed by FoFW and Achieving Results in Communities (ARC) CIC**

**Trustees:** Dan Champion, Sue Deeley, Heather Haslett, Kristie Naimo, Katherine Pasteur

**Steering Group:** The Trustees, plus Matt Cox, Kate Haines, Gerald Haseldine (until Jan 2021)

**Achievements for the year to April 2021**

- The Trustees and Steering Group met regularly every two months.
- When permitted by the pandemic rules, kept the wood open both to the public and for use by groups.
- The wood also became an outdoor venue for several groups who were unable to meet indoors – including community choirs, toddler groups and for vulnerable adults.
- We continued to send a monthly e-newsletter to around 1400 supporters. During periods of lockdown, we included craft and nature-based activities for people to do at home.
- Awarded a fourth Green Flag Community Award in July 2020.
- Extended the outdoor classroom to provide a larger undercover space.

- Bought a new camera in November for more regular photographing of the wildlife in the wood.
- Ecotherapy Group continued with funding from the People's Health Trust.
- Discussions ongoing with Network Rail about leasing the disused sidings adjacent to the wood.
- Continued to have great support and publicity from local community.

## **Report on activities at the wood in the year to April 2021**

### *Effect of the pandemic*

In recent years, the activities and events at the wood have covered a wide range of areas – nature, crafts, and theatre, as well as education. Events are variously suitable for toddlers, school-age children, families and adults.

This year, however, group activities in the wood, and public access, were severely curtailed by the pandemic. A week before the beginning of this report year (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) a nationwide lockdown was imposed, and the wood was completely closed until mid-July.

The Ecotherapy Group moved its activities online in April, not returning to the wood until early August, and returning online in December. Muddy Puddles used their Facebook page to suggest activities.

We adapted our monthly newsletter content to include craft and nature activities that could be done at home.

We held our Trustees meetings and AGM online.

We adapted our proposed guided walk in June to Myton Pool to a self-guided walk.

In July, when some small groups were allowed to meet outdoors, we reopened the wood for the exclusive use (ie the wood was closed to the public at the time) of groups doing activities with children and vulnerable adults. Groups operated under risk assessments and limited numbers according to government guidelines.

We instituted a one-way route around the wood in July that remained in place until November.

Between Mid-July and early October more of our regular activities were able to return, and we were also able to host other local groups who were unable to meet indoors.

Local events at which we usually have a presence – Peace Festival, Ecofest – were cancelled, and none of our regular theatre events took place. In late autumn, we took the decision not to hold our usual Halloween event.

In the second national lockdown from early November only support groups for children and vulnerable adults were able to continue, but by March 2021 we were able to hold some Easter Holiday events, and to plan restarting regular events from April.

Our monthly volunteer days were cancelled from April – September and then resumed with a pre-booking system and limited numbers.

Overall, in the twelve months, we ran or hosted around 130 events. (In recent years, the number has been between 200 and 230.)

### *Annual General Meeting*

At the AGM in May, Kristie Naimo, Kath Pasteur, Dan Champion and Sue Deeley were all re-elected for further three-year terms as Trustees.

### *Ensonglopedia project*

Singer/songwriter John Hinton visited the wood at the beginning of September to talk to people about the effects of lockdown and the value of being in nature. From this he wrote a series of songs which were live streamed via Facebook on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and also produced a CD.

### *Extending the classroom*

In November, we made the decision to extend the classroom to give us more undercover space for groups. Co-management partner ARCCIC agreed to contribute £1000, we raised £700 in donations from a Christmas appeal, and agreed to contribute the balance from our reserves. Having received planning permission, work started in January 2021, and was completed in April.

### *Spark Ignite*

In February 2021, we took part for the first time in a local online arts event SPARK IGNITE, with a virtual 'stall' to tell visitors about the wood. Friends of Foundry Wood Chair Kristie spoke in a session on Arts, Health and Happiness - showcasing some of the creative things that happen at the wood – including Choirs and a Body Percussion group!

### *Leasing the adjacent Network Rail Land*

We continued our discussions with Network Rail (NR) to lease the disused sidings to the south of Foundry Wood.

Some progress on the legal aspects was made. A draft lease sent by NR in May 2020 was withdrawn as not appropriate. A meeting in March 2021 with more senior NR staff established a process for the next steps, and a lease of term of around 15 years.

Local NR staff worked on clearing the site of undergrowth, managing some of the trees, and removing some of the sidings.

In July, we received a grant (£16,000) from the Postcode Lottery to fund the fencing that we will need to install as a condition of the lease.

### *Nature activities*

In November we purchased a new camera to record the wildlife in the wood, and now have this set up regularly.

A local fungi expert explored the wood and identified the wide range of fungi.

Species records continued to be collated and shared with Warwickshire County Council Ecological Services, and a member of the Steering Group reported to their annual meeting in March 2021.

### **Education project**

Due to the pandemic we did not host any of the usual Educational or group visits held in previous years.

### **Friends of Foundry Wood – Annual Accounts to April 2021**

| Foundry Wood Accounts           |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| April 20 position               |                               |
| Balance                         | £8,678.71                     |
| <b>Income</b>                   |                               |
| Grants                          | £16,000.00                    |
| Donations                       | £1,596.26                     |
| Ecotherapy Donation c/o F. Wood | £3,000.00                     |
| Bank interest                   | £0.00                         |
|                                 | <b>Income £20,596.26</b>      |
| <b>Outgoings</b>                |                               |
| Local giving costs              | £96.00                        |
| Live & Local costs              | £0.00                         |
| Play area maintenance           | £0.00                         |
| Tree Surgery                    | £0.00                         |
| Outdoor camera costs            | £74.47                        |
| Leaflets & Printing costs       | £0.00                         |
| Pond Costs                      | £0.00                         |
| Tools & padlocks                | £0.00                         |
| Outdoor classroom extension     | £1,500.00                     |
| Gravel, paint & signage costs   | £0.00                         |
| Water Plus (Severn Trent)       | £60.90                        |
|                                 | <b>Outgoings £1,731.37</b>    |
| April 21 position               |                               |
| Bank Account                    | £27,527.41                    |
| Cash Float                      | £16.19                        |
|                                 |                               |
|                                 | <b>£27,543.60</b>             |
|                                 | <b>Profit/Loss £18,864.89</b> |

Income in 2020-2021 included a grant of £16,000 received from the Postcode Lottery to fund the fencing of the Network Rail land. This will be spent once we have the lease. Donations include an anonymous donation of £3000 being held by FOFW for the Ecotherapy Group – to be paid to them in April 2021.

Costs of the outdoor classroom are a part payment. A further £2,200 will be paid on completion of the project.

Because of the pandemic, our general outgoings were lower than in previous years, and a number of line items have been shown at £0.00. Our annual outgoings are usually around £1100.

Sue Deeley  
Secretary  
Friends of Foundry Wood Trustees