

Kent Wildlife Rescue Service
Unaudited Financial Accounts
Year Ended 31st March 2024
Charity Registration Number - 1164595

Kent Wildlife Rescue Service

Charity
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Year Ended
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Trustees Report for the year ended 31st March 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting their report together with the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Kent Wildlife Rescue Service is a small charity registered with the Charity Commission in December 2015 as a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1164595. The charity has continued to grow and is now entering its tenth year as a registered charity.

The principle office is 106 Victoria Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1YF.

Trustees

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were:

- * Lorraine St. John
- * Sara O'Bray
- * Jan Hooper
- * Julia (Twiggy) Hawes

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the charity is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of wild animals in Kent in need of care and attention and, in particular, to provide and maintain facilities for the rescue, reception, care and treatment of such animals with the ultimate aim of releasing back to the wild.

Care and treatment will include those animals found by the general public and which have either been brought to the centre directly or reported and rescued/ collected by the trustees and volunteers. Assistance will be provided through general medical aid and care where appropriate or by referral to a vet.

The service continues to have been very busy. The range of animals received continues to be wide and varied. The variety has increased. The area from which animals are rescued has also increased due to the closure of many other small rescue centres/ organisations. The charity continues to follow guidance around keeping the birds well (following the Avian Flu) and continues to work closely with the Swan Sanctuary and their vet for treatment and surgery, particularly for our sea birds. Any errant North American migrants blown to our shores are treated then despatched to a specialised centre in Dorset.

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Objectives and Activities (continued)

KWRS continues to offer a service to the fire and rescue service and police covering from 7pm to 7am. The RSPCA cover during the day. This is our fifth year of offering support. The charity receives a donation of £1500 yearly for this service. Our partnership with Fox Angels is working well and continues through mutual appreciation.

The charity now has 21 collection / rescue officers. These volunteers represent the charity in dealing with the general public. The charity continually try to increase these numbers as often volunteers are unavailable due to other commitments and therefore a larger number of volunteers would create greater capacity for calls coming in to the centre. Other work/ advocacy for wildlife has been offered by our hedgehog co-ordinator Ian Gray who has completed numerous talks about hedgehogs and wildlife to various schools and community groups.

The centre is also under extreme pressure now from members of the public becoming aggressively vocal in not being able to have their injured wildlife collected or being attended to. Once the centre's holding pens are full, we post a message explaining our reasons as, obviously, we cannot accept more wildlife for treatment until space becomes available. Alternative rescue centres are under the same pressures.

The largest expense of the Charity continues to be veterinary bills. Our principal vet continues to be Manor Vets in Chatham. For our orthopaedic patients we are using Brier House vets in Broadstairs. We use Meads vets in Dartford as our hospital for emergency situations.

The rising cost of fuel has always been problematic due to the large area covered. The charity has a large proportion of rescues in the Thanet area which also involves significant mileage and therefore cost. The charity is grateful for having managed to secure a fuel donation for up to 50% of our fuel costs covered by SJL logistics. Again this year, because of increasing wildlife being treated and our waste cannot be collected by the Council, SJL Haulage also cover some of our waste management costs on skip hire.

Our fundraising teams have been superb in matching our increasing expenditure by running 30 events around Kent and have also continued to include supermarkets collections and carol singing donations. The charity is still fundraising by auctioning donated goods and again this is proving to be very profitable due to the dedication of the volunteers organising this.

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Objectives and Activities (continued)

Our largest volume of funding is from the general public, via Paypal and Paypal Giving, which strongly suggests our regular Facebook entries on the welfare of incoming wildlife is striking a positive feeling, thus releasing extra donations. We thank those who tirelessly continue to input all these wildlife recovery adventures onto the social media platforms for us.

Sadly, our 'resident' fox, Peter, passed away and his presence will be missed, not only by centre staff, but by those who used to see him at various fundraising events..

In the coming year , the Charity's committee members would like to –

- * Increase volunteer rescuers across the county.
- * Increase numbers of centre volunteers.
- * Focus on fundraising which is ongoing and the auctions will be a fundraising priority for as well as being used to increase public awareness of the charity and its work.
- * Focus on further developing a computer database.
- * Work on the purpose-built animal hospital. There are now significant funds towards this, however, more is needed. There has been a difficulty securing reputable builders for quotes to do the work.
- * Grow income through grants and community funding- specifically the charity would like to explore charitable donations through councillors over the whole of Kent as currently we only approach Swale. The base is situated in Swale however we cover the whole of Kent.
- * Further develop social media and online fundraising.
- * Ensure the continuation of a stable trustee membership.
- * Work on soft release pens for all wildlife in the process of releasing wildlife. There is a need to increase opportunity with the general public to work with us on the set up and location of the pens (which will be supplied by KWRS).

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Financial Review

For the year ended 31st March 2024, income through donations was £54,787 (2023: £53,839) and expenditure was £58,556 (2023: £46,308). This resulted in £32,579 of unrestricted reserves (2023: £36,339) that were carried forward at the end of the year. The trustees are satisfied that the charity is on a sound footing and will be able to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

Risks Affecting the Charity

The main concerns of the Trustee's are that other organisations have been working on shorter hours or have closed completely which has increased our intake significantly. Also, the increased risk of avian flu has meant other centres have stopped taking rescued birds and the centre is constantly full.

Public Benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charity Commission in exercising their power and duties.

The trustees would like to thank all the donors for their support during the year and would also like to recognise the work of the volunteers under increasingly difficult conditions.

Signed:

Lorraine St John

Sarah O'Bray

On behalf of the board of trustees

Dated: 24 January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF KENT WILDLIFE RESCUE SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report on the accounts of Kent Wildlife Rescue Service for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I 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.

61 London Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8TX

J A Griggs FCA
LEVICKS
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

27 January 2025

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<u>Receipts and Payments Account</u>		2024	2023
Income		£	£
	Donations	54,787	53,839
		54,787	53,839
Expenditure			
	Animal Feed	(8,304)	(8,789)
	Bank Charges	(111)	(229)
	Accountancy	(252)	(210)
	Medical Supplies	(2,187)	(2,109)
	Sundry	(160)	(745)
	Motor and Subsistence	(4,131)	(7,005)
	Veterinary	(36,149)	(19,522)
	Power	(950)	(974)
	Postage	(143)	(363)
	Event costs	(420)	(890)
	Animal collections	(2,470)	(1,515)
	Donations	(875)	(2,185)
	Waste collections	(1,684)	(1,772)
	Storage Rental	(720)	
		(58,556)	(46,308)
	Net Deficit for the year	(3,769)	7,531
	Bank & cash balances 31 March 2023	36,339	28,808
	Bank & cash balances 31 March 2024	32,579	36,339

The above receipts and payments account was approved by the trustees.

Signed:

Lorraine St John Sarah O'Bray
On behalf of the board of trustees.

Dated: 24 January 2025

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<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	2024	2023
Assets	£	£
Bank & Cash Account balances	32,579	36,339
Van donated by Swan Sanctuary	5,000	5,000

Notes to the accounts

- 1) The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.
- 2) The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations Regulations, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.