



Friends of Barnet Environment Centre CIO
Charity no. 1165515

Annual Report: September 2020 - August 2021

The aim of the Friends of Barnet Environment Centre (FoBEC) is to advance the education of school age children and of the public in natural history and nature conservation, welcoming a wide diversity of visitors and enabling them to gain a positive attitude, lasting interest in and an appreciation of the natural environment. We also aim to maintain and develop the ecological and educational value of the Byng Road nature reserve in Barnet.

Our Environmental Education Manager, Caroline Gellor, resigned at the end of February for health reasons and she has now moved with her family to Wales. We held a very informal and socially distanced farewell event in mid-February, presenting her with a cheque from our members and with a photo album of her time at the Centre. FoBEC was very fortunate to obtain the services of Robyn Stern, an experienced Science teacher with a great interest in environmental education, to cover our bookings over the summer. Robyn did an excellent job and feedback from schools was extremely positive, so huge thanks to Robyn for stepping in. School and uniformed organisation bookings were good and we had over 500 children, plus their teachers and carers, visiting during the summer term. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped Robyn set up the classes and helped her clear up at the end of each teaching session.

We have bookings for school visits in the autumn term 2021 and we already have some for summer 2022. We were also asked by the London Borough of Barnet to provide some courses for children qualifying for free school meals, funded by the Government in an effort to help those young people catch up with their learning following COVID. Unfortunately, these courses did not happen this year but we are in discussion with LBB staff to organise them for next summer.

FoBEC also re-started events for the local community, running monthly Open Afternoons between May and August. The response has been steady, although we have not advertised widely and nor have we been able to run activities for children or provide tea and cakes as we have done in the past, due, obviously, to COVID restrictions. Our final planned events are a two day drop in to coincide with the Battle of Barnet/Medieval festival, which will be held on Barnet Rugby club fields at the end of Byng Road on September 11th and 12th, and an Open Afternoon on 10th October.

In February, FoBEC responded fully to the Chipping Barnet Community Plan. Various projects have been chosen for funding in the future and we wait to see whether we will be further involved in the project.

FoBEC continues to be part of the Barnet Green Spaces Network, a collaborative group of LBB personnel and 'Friends of' organisations, which shares information and works with Green Spaces officers at Barnet council. We have attended all meetings (via Zoom) this year.

The new bee area has been a great success: there are now 10 working hives and Environment Centre honey is being produced. The Barnet Bee Keepers are very pleased with the arrangement.

Although this has been another challenging year, with continuing COVID lockdowns and restrictions, mixed weather and work being carried out on drainage and path resurfacing, our excellent band of dedicated volunteers has been working hard throughout. The Nature Reserve and the Centre Garden look wonderful and, over the last school term, volunteers have ensured that the site was safe for the groups of school children that started visiting the Centre again. Murky Pond has been refurbished, stumperies and new hedging have been completed in the Monterey Pine triangle, the meadow has been further cared for, the garden and pollinator corner have both been well looked after, paths have been kept clear, all grass areas have been kept mown and all the machinery has been regularly serviced. Caroline updated the Reserve Management Plan and this includes monthly tasks and longer term goals to enable us to plan our work at volunteer sessions.

During the autumn, winter and spring of 2020/21 our Trustees spent many hours planning for the re-laying of the Reserve paths which is a joint Noah's Ark Children's Hospice/FoBEC project. This work involved researching and sourcing the appropriate wheelchair friendly surface and the numbered posts to guide people round the new sensory trail; also there are now benches at the pause and ponder points. We have purchased labels for the trees which will be included in the new tree trail and new chestnut fencing for the south side of the meadow will be erected during this autumn.

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Hadley Trust, we were able to have the paths laid and the benches put in during June and the numbered posts are now positioned in 12 of the 13 information points on the sensory trail. The resurfacing of the service yard and the outdoor activity area is also now completed. Work is currently going ahead to complete the information leaflet for the Sensory Trail.

We hope, COVID restrictions permitting, to return to a more normal arrangement for volunteer working parties from September, which will include a re-instatement of the weekend sessions. A volunteer recruitment drive is planned so that all jobs can be shared by a larger number of people - these jobs include working on the Reserve, but also help with setting up and clearing up on teaching days, stewarding at open events and some small admin tasks.

We look forward to returning to a more normal life at the Environment Centre over the next year, with a further increase in school visits, bigger and better open events and, of course, our ever popular annual Quiz Night.

These are still very exciting times with a lot going on to make the Barnet Environment Centre and Nature Reserve a really important local community resource. Further developments over the next 12 months will present new challenges, but I think we are in a very strong position to meet those challenges and to continue to make the site even more widely accessible to interested people in our local area.

Bernard Johnson

Chair of Trustees, Friends of Barnet Environment Centre

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year to 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted Education Projects	Year ended 31/03/2021	Year ended 31/03/2020
	£	£		£
INCOME				
The Hadley Trust		10,000	10,000	10,000
School visits Centre-led	72		72	9,785
Memberships	690		690	877
Events/Fundraising	-		-	1,440
Donations	301		301	1,185
Gift Aid	132		132	217
Interest in savings acc	11		11	20
Miscellaneous	-		-	-
Total income	1,206	10,000	11,206	23,524
EXPENDITURE				
Insurance		351	351	404
Reserve maintenance	723		723	2,360
Building maintenance	-		-	95
Licence & Service fee		2,201	2,201	2,081
Office, photocopying & printing		46	46	307
Vol. support & training		27	27	111
Events/Fundraising	-		-	545
Misc., publicity, IT, bank fee	65		65	1,088
Environmental Education		8,400	8,400	16,316
Classroom supplies		170	170	682
Phone for school bookings		30	30	116
School refund		495	495	-
Total expenditure	788	11,720	12,508	24,105
NET DEFICIT FOR YEAR	418	(1,720)	(1,302)	(581)

Note 1: No school visits in this financial year due to COVID-19. The £72 was a payment for a visit in the previous year

Note 2: The Environmental Educator was paid from April to February to work on Nature Reserve projects.

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Charity number 1165515

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash float	21	21
CAF main bank account	19,929	21,242
CAF savings bank account	25,578	25,567
CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>45,528</u></u>	<u><u>46,830</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Funds brought forward at 1st April 2020	46,830	47,411
Net deficit for the year to 31 March 2021	<u>(1,302)</u>	<u>(581)</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>45,528</u></u>	<u><u>46,830</u></u>

Note 1: Analysis of funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2020	46,830	-	46,830
Net surplus/deficit for the year	418	(1,720)	(1,302)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2021	<u><u>47,248</u></u>	<u><u>(1,720)</u></u>	<u><u>45,528</u></u>

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Charity number 1165515

Independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

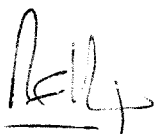
It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 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 seeking 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 give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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.

 6 JULY 2021.

Andrew Hind

11 Byng Road
Barnet
EN5 4NW