

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE: ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23.

This has been an extremely successful year for our educational work – over 2100 school age children visited the site, our highest attendance for many years. We were fully booked from the beginning of March to the penultimate day of the summer term, with schools carrying out work on the National Curriculum, GCSE, BTEC and A Level as well as badge work for scouting and guiding organisations.

Our Environmental Education Manager, Charlotte, resigned at the end of the summer term 2022, but we were very fortunate that Mel Goodwin was able to step in and cover school sessions in the Autumn and Spring terms and then Robyn Stern joined us to take over the work on April 1st, 2023.

Our Volunteers have, as ever, worked tirelessly to keep the Nature Reserve in good working order and ready for school and other visits. Other tasks have included building an outdoor workshop with full rainwater capture (thanks to donations from the Elstree Freemasons Lodge), dealing with several large trees which came down in high winds, building a second raised bed as part of the sensory trail, offering advice to other organisations on meadow management and pond care and putting up display boards in classroom 1 and a new screen for a projector in classroom 2. Work continues on the Centre Garden, the Pollinator Patch, pond clearance, path clearance and wood chip addition to paths and mini-beast areas. We have also planted a demonstration espaliered apple tree and constructed three large hibernacula in a new compost area. Our motion sensor cameras on the Nature Reserve have given us some stunning footage of the local wildlife. Consultants from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust have prepared a five-year Management Plan, including advice on redevelopment in the Centre Garden and the attenuation ponds and we are currently discussing how to proceed with this work.

A dawn chorus walk was organised for early May and we saw and/or heard 32 different bird species. A Picnic in the Garden Open Afternoon was held in July and we were wonderfully supported by members of the U3A Ukelele orchestra, who played while visitors were having their picnic. We held our usual Open House over the Battle of Barnet weekend in early June. A visually impaired walking group included the Environment Centre in their itinerary in June, when they were guided round our new Sensory Trail on the Reserve. Future events include a bat evening in September, half term activities for local children and our ever-popular Quiz in early February 2024.

Local organisations have, on several occasions, booked a speaker from FoBEC to raise their awareness of the Environment Centre and in May two of our Trustees were interviewed on the Reserve as part of a week-long series of programmes on BBC Radio London about the Borough of Barnet.

In a joint event with our landlords, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, during the autumn of 2022, the new Reserve paths were officially opened in the presence of Theresa Villiers our local MP, Emma Whysall and Paul Edwards our new local councillors and Philip and Janet Hulme from the Hadley Trust as well as staff and volunteers from both organisations. Liaison between the two organisations continues to work well and a joint tea party was held in June 2023 so that staff were able to meet and chat informally at what was a very pleasant social occasion.

In last year's report, we said we thought 2022/23 was going to be busy and that has proved to be the case. We hope 2023/24 will be busy again as we continue to provide an important environmental service to our local schools and community.

The Trustees, Friends of Barnet Environment Centre

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year to 31/03/2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted Education Projects	Year ended 31/03/2023	Year ended 31/03/2022
	£	£		£
INCOME				
Hadley Trust		10,000	10,000	10,000
School visits Centre-led	10,289		10,289	5,340
Memberships	600		600	1,066
Events/Fundraising	1,204		1,204	153
Donations	2,849		2,849	3,459
Gift Aid	215		215	196
Interest	342		342	6
Insurance receipt	1,030		1,030	
Compensation NatWest			-	440
Total income	16,529	10,000	26,529	20,660
EXPENDITURE				
Insurance		416	416	408
Reserve maintenance	2,533		2,533	1,919
Building maintenance	486		486	35
Licence fee		60	60	584
Office, photocopying & printing		112	112	70
Vol. support & training	1,193		1,193	223
Events/Fundraising	66		66	-
Misc. & bank fee	72		72	259
Environmental Education		8,917	8,917	2,729
Classroom supplies		696	696	61
Total expenditure	4,350	10,201	14,551	6,288
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	12,179	(201)	11,978	14,372

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Charity number 1165515

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash float	21	21
CAF main bank account	23,462	21,795
CAF savings bank account	48,395	38,084
CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>71,878</u></u>	<u><u>59,900</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Funds brought forward at 1 April 2022	59,900	45,528
Net surplus for the year to 31 March 2023	11,978	14,372
TOTAL	<u><u>71,878</u></u>	<u><u>59,900</u></u>

Note 1: Analysis of funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2022	55,402	4,498	59,900
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	12,179	(201)	11,978
Balance carried forward to 1st April 2023	<u><u>67,581</u></u>	<u><u>4,297</u></u>	<u><u>71,878</u></u>

FRIENDS OF BARNET ENVIRONMENT CENTRE CIO

Charity number 1165515

Independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Barnet Environment Centre CIO for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Environment Centre you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Environment Centre's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Environment Centre as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records

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.



17 JULY 2023

Andrew Hind

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