



## Annual General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Annual Report from the Chairman of Trustees of The Watercress Way

*Reporting on the year 2022-23 up to the anniversary of the foundation of the Charity on 16 June 2016.*

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Volunteer development has been a key feature of the work.

I really must thank our Trustee volunteers for being so adaptable in the work that they do, they are so loyal to the charity: preparing accounts, organising events, the website, managing contractors and volunteers, writing letters and carrying out practical tasks: thank you.

But we cannot do everything and I'd like to thank our volunteers who carry out work that may not have a cost, but contributes huge value to the charity.

Since our beginning in 2016, the yearly pattern of the Charity's work is emerging:-

Events, Planning applications, Fund raising, Improving signage, Promotion, research and public awareness of the ecology and heritage and conservation of the route and providing supporting infrastructure such as seats.



Unfortunately there appears to be someone who takes delight in vandalising signs and leaflet boxes. With help from the 'Community Shed' in Kings Worthy, we have replaced the boxes and the signage.



Not only do Trustees hold events to promote the charity, they have also commented on relevant planning applications and argued for potential changes to improve and lengthen public access to the dismantled lines between Sutton Scotney, Kings Worthy and Alresford.



A section of the old railway line in the Worthys has finally been agreed as part of the 'definitive map' which means that it will be on the next version of the OS map. We are really pleased because we believe that every metre of line gained is a triumph, and worth fighting for. In this case, we will change our map too.



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We raised funds by selling 2023 Calendars to promote the views of The Watercress Way.

Some events held as part of the Watercress and Winterbourne project have been online: an online talk with an eminent ornithologist was followed by an in-person walk which was very popular and fully booked.

A low point in the year was the felling of about 150 ash trees at Itchen Abbas/Martyr Worthy. They were felled because the trees were suffering from ash die back. Stumps of varying heights have been left to see if they regenerate. The County Council has agreed to keep a watching brief on this.



Dawn to Dusk Day is an important day in the calendar for us. We led walks on the day in 2023, one virtual so the public could self-lead their treasure hunt.

We also hosted a Dawn Chorus walk in Sutton Scotney, a fascinating history walk in Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy, and a heritage and conservation



walk based around the Worthy Halt in Kings Worthy.

You can see longer descriptions about these and other events on our

website.[www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk). In 2024, Dawn to Dusk Day will be on 28<sup>th</sup> April.



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A new notice board will be installed, including a view to show what the route could look like if extended.

Thank you to all the organisations and individuals who supported this project.







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Alresford Rotary. Thanks to the HCC officer who assisted us.

The next part of this work is to install memorial plaques with relevant birdsong references on each seat so that the public can recognise the sounds they hear as they rest on the seats.



We were pleased to host a stall at the Watercress Festival, where we talked to over 300 people for the second year running. It was a great day in the sunshine with many people stopping to chat and support us, and offer to volunteer.

But it's not all about public facing work. Two of our Trustees have been developing a new section on the website which now offers an opportunity to register their wish to volunteer. Please make use of it if you haven't done so already!

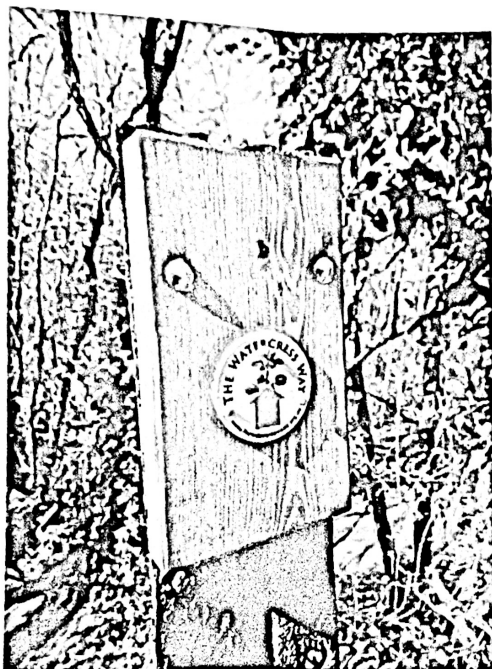
And so, like The Watercress Way itself, this report comes round full circle.

Our Trustees have done so much this year, but to do even more, we need an army of volunteers to help. Could you give a few hours even once a year to help develop the routes along our old railway lines? If you can, we'd thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



**Jackie Porter**

Chairman of The Watercress Way  
Reg No 1167675



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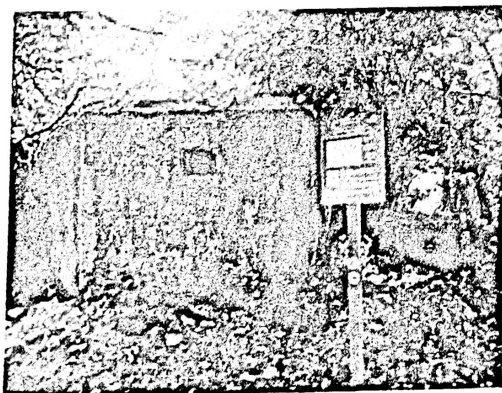
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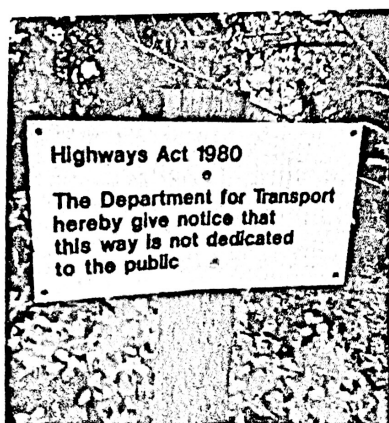
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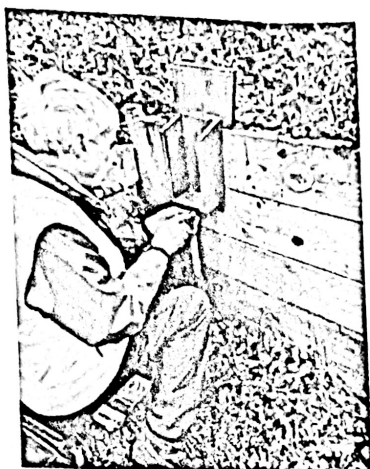
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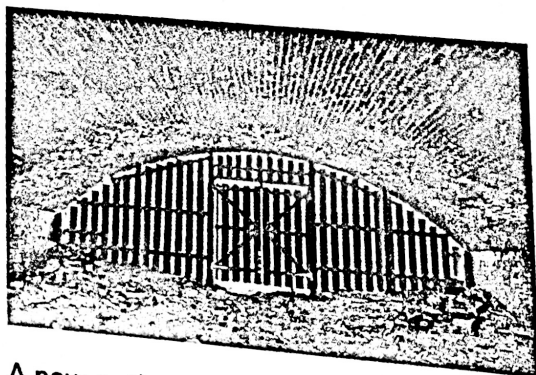
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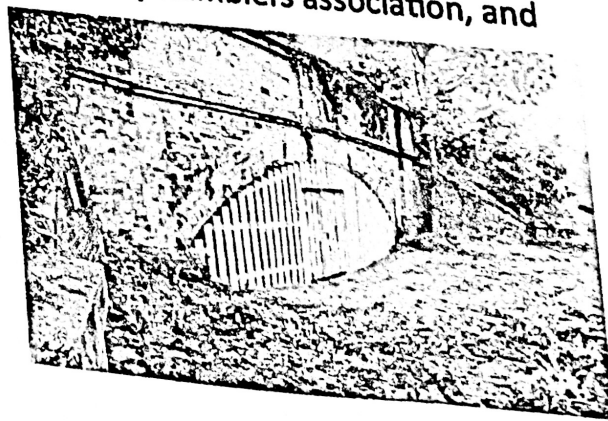
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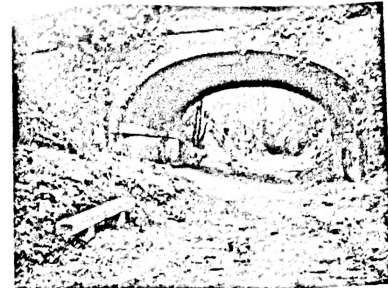


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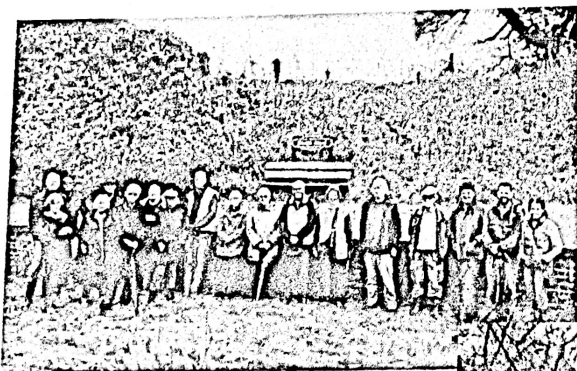
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Jackie Porter  
Chairman of The Watercress Way  
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**The Watercress Way**  
**Registered Charity Number 1167675**  
**For the year ended 5th April 2023**

		2023		2022
	Notes	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure account</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Donations - general		465.25		1023.86
Donations - restricted		2551.17		-
General grants and sponsorship		-		424.47
Calendar sales		598.44		-
Other income - Eventbrite bird watching		24.40		-
Restricted grants	1	-	2796.75	
			3639.26	4245.08
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Calendar costs		405.60		270.00
IOW Grant expenditure		712.04		-
Administrative costs		471.60		443.68
Insurance		296.73		288.37
Maintenance		90.00		-
Printing		485.70		148.98
Training - Brush cutting		-		363.00
Tool stock write down		493.00		493.00
			2954.67	2007.03
<b>Net expenditure/ income</b>			684.59	2238.05
<b>Balance Sheet at 5th April 2023</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Debtors			120.80	95.80
Deposit for benches (restricted)			500.00	-
Stock of Tools	2		493.28	986.28
<b>Cash at bank</b>				
General funds		3842.66		2000.94
Restricted funds		8170.62		9359.75
			12013.28	11360.69
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Creditors	3	-	-	-
			0.00	0.00
<b>Net Assets</b>			13127.36	12442.77
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>				
General fund brought forward		3083.02		4027.90
Restricted fund brought forward	4	9359.75		9179.75
			12442.77	13207.65
Movement in year - General fund		1873.72		-997.41
Movement in year - Restricted fund	4	-1189.13		232.53
			684.59	-764.88
General fund carried forward		4956.74		3083.02
Restricted fund carried forward	4	8170.62		9359.75

13127.36

12442.77

Approved by the trustees of The Watercress Way on the .....15<sup>th</sup> June.....2023

Jackie Porter - Chair



Julie Fullstone - Treasurer



The Watercress Way

Registered Charity Number 1167675

For the year ended 5th April 2023

#### Notes to the accounts

##### 1. Restricted grants

These grants can only be used for the purpose specified on the grant application and for which the grant is made.

##### 2. Equipment

The trust has a stock of maintenance equipment which is shown in the accounts at cost. The stock comprises the following individual items:

	£
Loppers	47.94
High pruners	25.98
Pruning saw	32.90
Brush cutter and blades	658.46
Brush cutters (2)	1700.00
Less: write down for wear and tear	-1972.00
	<u>£493.28</u>

##### 3. Prepayment

This is the deposit for the supply of benches funded by the restricted grant from Alresford Rotary Club

##### 4. Restricted grants received and applied in the year

	Brought Forward	Transfer	Received	Applied	Carried Forward
	£		£	£	£
<b>Hampshire County Council</b>					
Interpretation boards	112.00			112.00	-
<b>Boomtown</b>					
Disabled access study/work	800.00				800.00
<b>Rotary Club of Winchester</b>					
Disabled access study	158.00				158.00
<b>Rotary Club of Alresford</b>					
Memorial benches	4,500.00			500.00	4,000.00



<b>Hellards</b>				
Pocket Guide book	500.00			500.00
<b>Sutton Scotney Bridge</b>				
Bridge Gates	-	2,551.17		2,551.17
<b>Winchester City Council</b>				
Posts	313.00		38.00	275.00
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	2,796.75		712.04	2,084.71
	<u>9179.75</u>	<u>2551.17</u>	<u>1362.04</u>	<u>10368.88</u>

**The Watercress Way**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 5th April 2023**

**Poolemead Accountants (Winchester) Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors**