

The Watercress Way Charity 1167675

Annual Report 2023-2024

AGM: 11 July 2024 at
The Bush Inn, Ovington

Chairman: Jackie Porter



The activities that are undertaken by the trustees on behalf of the Charity are varied, and I'd like to thank all trustees for their participation this year; and especially for using their own skills in the roles they have undertaken. The public appreciate your efforts!



In May 2023 we had a stand at the Watercress Festival. Thanks to Brigid and Stephen and other trustees who talked to over 300 of the public on the day.

We used our Rotary legacy grant funding to install the first four new seats and are currently finalising the practical aspects of the Birdsong Trail, using roundels and QR

codes at various venues around the route, including on the seats.

To inform the public about the sounds they hear, these roundels will provide direct links to the song of birds we have heard near those sites.

Thank you to Chris Brunskill, Clive Cook, and Mike Collis for their skills on this project.

We had a generous grant from Hellards to assist in publishing a book of Watercress Way Walks. This has been a longer project than expected, but we hope to launch it on the Hellards stand at the Alresford Show later this year. Clive Cook has led on this work, with help from other trustees.



The Watercress and Winterbourne project has been popular with many people signing up for walks and talks, covering Badgers, Birds, photography (mainly in the rain,) and a Heritage Walk. We are anticipating an Evening with Bats later this summer! Thank you to Emma

Banks and Stephen Jeffery for organising and hosting these walks, and Mike for helping with the bird identification walk at the last minute!



Our D2D day is in its 7th year, after 2 missed during Covid. Dawn to Dusk Day 2024 proved a challenge because of the weather. But the Chesil Tunnel tour was in the dry and very popular. We learned a lot from our visitors too: one had worked nearby, another had caught a train there. Thanks to our WCC guide for giving up his Saturday for us to see the southern part of the DSNR line.

For the first time ever, we postponed the Dawn Chorus Walk: it was raining so hard that we couldn't hear any birds! But the sun shined as we celebrated one of the new seats installed, and enjoyed a visit to the Eel House nearby, hosted by The Alresford Town Trust. Thank you to trustees for taking their part in this Annual event.



We are currently working on a joint project with Itchen Valley Parish Council to complete an 'Access for All' shorter ramp from their Recreation Ground to the Watercress Way path. This new ramp will be beneficial to many but had been delayed because the IVPC project had stalled. We look forward to working with IVPC on the project.

We hope this will be complete by next year.

As part of our Strategic Plan, Trustees examine every planning application that could affect the setting of The Watercress Way or even give better access to more of the disused railway line. Tony Langridge has been very helpful with this.

Mike, Stephen, other volunteers and ex Trustee Jim tackle the overgrown paths with brush cutters and rakes. The work to clear the paths was hampered by the very wet winter, spring and summer. To compensate, we will plan activity days 'with renewed vigour' for winter 2024/5.

Completing the Strategic Plan with likely costs attached, the rising cost of works and making enough time for volunteering has been a challenge for us all, but Julie Fullstone, our Treasurer has kept our finances in such good order. Julie is already committed to another charity and so will resign as soon as we can find a replacement. We thank her for her diligence and wish her well.

We have advertised for new Trustees with specific experience. I am pleased to say that volunteers are coming forward with the skills that we will need for the next five years.

The Watercress Way
Registered Charity Number 1167675
For the year ended 5th April 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Income and Expenditure account					
Income					
Donations - general		607.45		465.25	
Donations - restricted	1	700.00		2551.17	
Calendar sales		185.41		598.44	
Other income - Eventbrite bird watching		-		24.40	
			1492.86		3639.26
Expenditure					
Restricted project expenditure (Note 3)		3909.50		1362.04	
Calendar costs		153.00		405.60	
IOW Expenditure		-			
Administrative costs		383.30		307.30	
Insurance		376.57		296.73	
Maintenance		409.50		90.00	
Training		175.00		-	
Tool stock write down		493.28		493.00	
			5900.15		2954.67
Net expenditure/ income			-4407.29		684.59
Balance Sheet at 5th April 2024					
Assets					
Debtors			-		120.80
Deposit for benches (restricted)			-		500.00
Stock of Tools	2		-		493.28
Cash at bank					
General funds		1692.29		3842.66	
Restricted funds		7027.78		8170.62	
			8720.07		12013.28
Liabilities					
Creditors		-	-	-	-
			-		-
Net Assets			8720.07		13127.36
Accumulated Fund					
General fund brought forward		2758.48		384.76	
Restricted fund brought forward	3	10368.88		12058.01	
			13127.36		12442.77
Movement in year - General fund		-1066.19		1873.72	
Movement in year - Restricted fund	3	-3341.10		-1189.13	
			-4407.29		684.59
General fund carried forward		1692.29		2758.48	
Restricted fund carried forward	3	7027.78		10368.88	
			8720.07		13127.36

Approved by the trustees of The Watercress Way on the2024

Jackie Porter - Chair

Julie Fullstone - Treasurer

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For the year ended 5th April 2024

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	-2465.28
	<u>£0.00</u>

3. Restricted grants received and applied in the year

	Brought Forward	Transfer	Received	Applied	Carried Forward
	£		£	£	£
Hampshire County Council					
Leaflets	-		700.00	130.00	570.00
Boomtown					
Disabled access study/work	800.00				800.00
Rotary Club of Winchester					
Disabled access study	158.00				158.00
Rotary Club of Alresford					
Memorial benches	4,000.00			2,062.47	1,937.53
Hellards					
Pocket Guide book	500.00				500.00
Sutton Scotney Bridge					
Bridge Gates	2,551.17			1,232.53	1,318.64
Winchester City Council					
Posts	275.00			275.00	-
Isle of Wight	2,084.71			341.10	1,743.61
	<u>10368.88</u>		<u>700.00</u>	<u>4041.10</u>	<u>7027.78</u>

**The Watercress Way
Financial Statements
For the year ended 5th April 2024**