

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

To

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

BLYTH WOODS

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1172343

Charity's principal address

Furrows

Bramfield Road

Wenhaston, Suffolk

IP19 9EA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ann Edwards	Chair		
2	Geraldine Lines	Secretary		
3	Elizabeth Hill	Treasurer		
4	Marie Rolfe			
5	John Rolfe			
	Alan Miller			
7	Ian Bigwood		01/04/2020 -12/09/2020	
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution adopted 26 th January 2017
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods	Every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Blyth Woods is affiliated to Green Light Trust (registered charity# 1000977) whose mission is "Bringing people and nature together".

Blyth Woods works closely with the Wenhaston Commons Group, who manage the commons surrounding the village of Wenhaston.

Blyth Woods is the official tree warden for the parish of Wenhaston with Mells, and Trustees are regularly in touch with the Tree Warden network.

Blyth Woods has a child protection policy and an equal opportunities policy in place and produces activity and place risk assessments as necessary.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment in the parish of Wenhaston, Suffolk and surrounding parishes of the Blyth Valley, and the creation of community woodland and green spaces for the public at large, with the object of improving their education and condition of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

At meetings of the Blyth Woods steering group we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year ahead.

Due to Covid restrictions this year, these activities have been limited. We have not been able to follow our programme with the primary school children, or engage in public events. However the public was encouraged to enjoy the open space and to create artworks made from natural materials to display along the footpaths.

Management work on the Trust's property continued, with maintenance of Grove Piece and Malsters Little Field : weeding, replacing saplings and cutting rides. A new footbridge was installed at the edge of Grove Piece to facilitate public access. A new bench was also installed.

Blyth Woods has also now taken over the management of Vicarage Grove, an adjoining piece of ancient woodland. This is on a 5 year renewable lease, at peppercorn rent.

The group bought and planted new fruit trees in the Community Orchard, which had suffered a number of losses. A gap in the hedge surrounding the Orchard was also filled in.

Articles continue to be written for the local newsletters to keep the public informed, as well as the website and Facebook.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Blyth Woods is supported entirely by volunteers of all ages and backgrounds from the local communities.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievement of Blyth Woods during this difficult year was the clearing and dredging of the very overgrown pond, which had been acquired with Malsters Little Field.

This required a digger and a lot of voluntary effort in the autumn, but which is now rejuvenating and providing new wildlife habitat.

The other main achievement was securing the lease of Vicarage Grove. This is an important small area of ancient woodland, adjoining the two fields owned by the Trust. Much of Grove Piece has been left without new planting to allow seed rain from the woodland to establish. There is public access through Vicarage Grove, which is also a noted bluebell wood in the spring. This means that the Trust now has approx. 7.1 acres under its management.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

After the completion of the purchase of Malsters Little Field, a proportion of the remaining funds was kept in reserve for future land purchases. The balance has been used to pursue our action plan of maintenance and planting, and acquiring the necessary tools for this.

It was agreed to hold £2600 in reserve over the next 2 years to cover expected expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since February 2020, activities have been curtailed due to Covid restrictions. The Trustees continued to meet virtually on a regular basis.

There have been no fund raising activities, but Friends of Blyth Woods continue to contribute towards the finances.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M. Ann Edwards

Full name(s)

Margaret Ann Edwards

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

31/08/2021