



Wild about our Woods CIO

Charity Number 1173958

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

We have been set up as a Charity Incorporated Organisation since 2017

OUR AIMS

To create more social opportunities for people to engage with, enjoy and enhance our local woods for mutual wellbeing.

OUR OBJECTIVES

(a) to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the London Boroughs of Barnet and Haringey and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large, in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants;

(b) to advance the education of the public in the use and conservation of natural resources, and in the role of woodlands in promoting emotional, social and physical wellbeing and cognitive development;

(c) to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment; in particular by encouraging and facilitating access to woodlands and by organising recreational, educational, therapeutic and social activities within woodlands.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In the last year we have worked directly with approximately 444 people across Barnet and Haringey to support their well-being via nature connection activities. This a slight increase on last year. Of them 32 were adults engaging in Forest School Training and with record numbers qualifying this year the impact of our work increased forest school connections many times over.

We have forged new contacts and worked in new areas. We were pleased to be able to continue to work in the East part of Haringey (Tottenham) and also in the North Finchley, Barnet. We offered more smaller group, focused and therapeutic which allowed us to offer targeted support to these those who might not access nature otherwise. We had one community event which was well attended and offered heavily discounted training to a couple of learners to support their access to such training.

Programmes continuing from last year

Community Innovation Fund

The Nature Nurturing Education programme commissioned by Barent Council was to be practical, engaging and with a therapeutic thread in some of the activities so students are supported to learn to connect to themselves, each other and nature. This would in turn support their engagement with each other and build resilience for school life and wider community. It began in September 2022 where we were given £8232.30 in the last financial year to delivery it and **£914.70** at the end of the programme. We were to run a total of 36 sessions between the two schools.

The Friern Barnet Group started with 9 young people in September 2022, all from year 7 except one young man. This young person was replaced with another year 7. We continued with this group for a second term running until Easter 2023. We had twenty sessions with them. The group had planned a summer term of swimming during the slot we had for them so the ten weeks was offered to the Compton again, with eight young people in the group.

The second cohort from the Compton started relatively late in the new term on 13th October. It allowed the staff to identify who was in needs of some support in outdoor learning. Eight young people started in this group from year 7.

The third cohort from Compton school began in February and was made up of some of the same young people from the October group plus some new ones. Eight young people were part of this group and this cohort ran until the end of the summer term. An end of programme report captured some great outcomes and feedback.

Haringey Learning Partnership

Four further sessions were carried out with this organisation at the start of the financial year. As an organisation they offer specialised teaching and support to students with complex needs so that they can achieve a safe, happy and independent future. Six to eight young people joined the programme each week. **£720** was paid during this time period.

New programmes

Space to grow 27 / Woodland Wellbeing project at Northside Primary School

Working with Northside Primary in North Finchley and delivering out of Friary Park we ran 20 weeks of sessions from June last year until February half term 2024. 40 sessions in total and 3 outdoor learning sessions for whole classes. Finally, training up a staff member to become a Forest School Leader and take the work forward. To the amount of £5502, with **£4952** being paid into the account this year.

The 2-term programme at Northside started in June 2023 and ran until February Half term 2024. The 'Woodland Wellbeing project' introduced an outdoor learning

programme based in nature to support children's physical health and mental wellbeing within the primary school community of Northside in Finchley. The programme was developed to support the pupils of the school access green spaces as many of them live in flats or do not have access to open spaces to play. The school has not green spaces either so the school lead Ms Millwood, understanding the importance of outdoor learning for physical and emotional wellbeing, wanted to address the nature deficit some of the pupils were subjected to.

In the local park, under trees, we created learning opportunities for 4 groups of pupils to attend 5 nature based sessions and a further class (in 2 groups) began its 10 nature based sessions each. 90 children were worked with to date. All sessions were for two hours each and included a 15/20 minute walk to and from the park. These includes scavenger hunts, tool use, using ropes and string to tie things, creating using natural materials and games,

Salisbury World

We ran 2 one-off woodland events for asylum seekers and refugees in Brent (The Welsh Harp), one a primary group and the second a secondary group. Good connections made and children seemed to love it. **£245** was raised by these

Forest School Training

Forest School training was very popular again last year. Two new courses were delivered and one continued from its October 2022 start. 32 people were trained and an income of £13,330 was gained, mainly training to Level 3 so the income generated was higher. 2 places were heavily subsidized to support those who can't afford to train to be part of the growth.

Programmes undertaken

Wild Play (aka Forest Fridays) at Sommerford Adventure Playground

The Bridgewater renewal Trust

£3,915 was given to continue our partnership with Haringey Play Association - Adventure playground on a Friday in Tottenham. The funding allowed for 30 sessions and ran until the end of December 2023. It included 3 out of centre sessions too which were run in the summer holidays and October half term

The programme aimed to be practical and engaging so participants were supported to learn to connect to themselves, each other and nature. The sessions took place outside in the adventure Playground where there are trees, bushes and a fire place. The number of children attending the sessions each week were between 34-65, aged between 5-15. The total number taking part in Forest School activities was 240, while many more engaged with cooking and eating with us around the fire.

A main part Forest School programmes is that the young people are given responsibility and freedom simultaneously, and importantly the opportunity to build healthy relationships with each other, the environment and themselves. The programme is also based on free play and choice, both of which mould well with the ethos of play at Somerford. As a result we found that some children were engaged in

most, if not all, of the activities offered every week. Some dipped in and out of activities, while others may have only done a handful of activities. Which ever was chosen by the participants each week many children engaged in activities offered to them.

Some of the activities included:

- Fire lighting skills, health and safety around a fire
- Outdoor cooking: pancakes, biscuits, burgers, bread, campfire doughnuts, Elderflower fritters marshmallows
- Wood chopping with axes
- Whittling – safely using knives
- Chopping up wood with knives and making an egg run
- Nail art – using hammers and nails
- Wool based crafts – ochos dios
- Summer slushies
- Fairy doors
- Conker games and crafts using palm drills
- May day crowns – using willow and flowers
- Planning vegetables and looking after them
- Hapa zome – leaf bashing
- Egg runs
- Using saws and horse saws.
- Celebrating different seasons around the fire.

The out of centre trips were well signed up to. We travelled to Cheshunt by train twice and roamed around their big nature reserve there. We also travelled on foot to Tottenham Marshes and explored the canal and surrounding green spaces. 36 participants enjoyed a holiday activity day this way.

OUR FINANCES

We successful obtained £26,317 which was down 17% from last year. 51% came from Forest School training. £25,643 was spend on the delivery of programmes, from funds and programmes which began before this financial year, as well as running the charity. At the end of the financial year, 31st October 2022, £ 9267.92 remained in the account and has been allocated to programmes running after 31st October 2023. The Full end of year accounts can be accessed as well.

Funding obtained

breakdown of grant income	from who	amount	for what?	completed or to be completed
	SALUSBURY WORLD	122.5	commissioned sessions	completed
	SALUSBURY WORLD	122.5	commissioned sessions	completed
	LON BOROUGH BARNET	914.7	community innovation fund	completed
	YOUNG BARNET FOUNDATION	4952	space to grow 27	ongoing
	Janine Young	300	refund	
	LON BOROUGH BARNET	901		
	LON BOROUGH BARNET	590		
	THE BRIDGE RENEWAL TRUST	3915	Forest Fridays	ongoing

	HARINGEY PLAY ASSOCIATION	480	Forest Fridays	ongoing
	HARINGEY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP	720	commissioned work	completed
	total income	13017.7		

FUTURE PLANS

We still want to diversify our funding streams beyond one-year grants programmes. We have made new contacts and possible avenues for collaborative work in both Barnet and Haringey which we would like to develop. Janine has been working closely with the John Lyons Trust to develop such programmes to establish themselves with staff and impact.

CHARITY TRUSTEES

Simon Davies (Chair)

Alison Stafford (Treasurer),

Chetna Patel (Safeguarding Lead)

CONTACT DETAILS

Charity: Wild about our woods CIO. Email; waowcio@yahoo.com

Bank: Santander account: Wild about our woods CIO

Insurance: Axa Policy SALSALIA/J178979/0332/20



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Wild about our woods CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

October 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1173958

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 10 / 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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.

Signed:

Date:

30/08/2024

Name:

Fiona Pamela Moorcroft

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Teacher (Primary)

Address:

43 Raleigh Road

London

SE20 7JE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Wild about our woods CIO

1173958

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01.11.2022

To

31.10.2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Forest School Training	13,300	-	-	13,300	15,180
vaious grants	-	13,017	-	13,017	16,303
refund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	13,300	13,017	-	26,317	31,483
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,300	13,017	-	26,317	31,483
A3 Payments					
forest school training associates	15,471	-	-	15,471	15,471
grant associate expenses	-	7,070	-	7,070	11,992
grant running expenses	-	558	-	558	4,721
forest school training running costs	2,134	-	-	2,134	4,269
charity running costs not associated to grants	411	-	-	411	411
refunds	-	-	-	-	2,315
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	18,016	7,628	-	25,643	42,783
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,016	7,628	-		42,783
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,716	5,389	-		16,466
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 4,716	5,389	-		16,466

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK


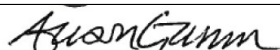
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-


	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 	Chetna Patel	23.8.24

	Alison Garvin	23.8.24
---	---------------	---------