

Charity registration number: 1184830

Wild About Clifford

Annual report and financial statements for
year ended 31st December 2021

Wild About Clifford

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Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Dr Trevor Acreman Mrs Linda Pollock Mrs Heather Taylor
Principal Office	Maytrees 44 Clifford Chambers Warwickshire CV37 8HX
Charity number	1184830
Bank	Santander 21 Wood St Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6JU

Wild About Clifford

Trustees report

The trustees present the annual report and financial statements for Wild About Clifford for the year ending 31st December 2021.

Trustees

Dr Trevor Acreman

Mrs Linda Pollock

Mrs Heather Taylor

Introduction

Wild About Clifford (WAC) became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association model) on 8th August 2019. Having started as a community group in April 2017, members voted to become a charity at the AGM in early 2019. The primary reasons for this were to be able to legally own land and to open up a potential for larger grant income. 2020 was planned to be the first full year of activities, education and fund raising but Covid 19 intervened and its impact continued into 2021. As of the end of December 2021, c75 members and their families had signed up to the purposes of WAC.

Objectives

The trustees shall first defray out of the income of the Charity all of the proper costs, charges and expenses of administration and management of the Charity.

The trustees shall apply the income of the Charity to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity primarily in the village of Clifford Chambers and in exceptional cases also in the broader Parish of Clifford Chambers and Milcote and the local authority area of Stratford Upon Avon District Council.

The trustees shall also apply the income of the Charity to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment primarily in the village of Clifford Chambers and in exceptional cases also in the broader Parish of Clifford Chambers and Milcote and the local authority area of Stratford Upon Avon District Council.

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Activities

The 5 year plan, completed in January 2020, outlined on-going conservation and education efforts along with two major long term projects – establishment of a community orchard and a village wildlife pond. In total, a target of c£57,000 was set to fund these activities. This plan continued to set the agenda for 2021.

During 2021 discussions continued with respect to buying or leasing land as did fundraising to pay for it – a continuing chicken and egg situation.

The annual AGM was held on March 28th via Zoom with 10 members present and a trustee meeting was held on 10th December.

Activities, events and fundraising were hit even more in 2021 than 2020 by the Covid 19 pandemic (with a full year of restrictions rather than 9 months). The 5 year plan has definitely been set back by at least 12 months but nonetheless we had a number of achievements to celebrate.

1) Conservation

The main conservation activity continued to be supporting our hedgehog population. With the population thriving we had 6 autumn juveniles handed over for care. Of these two died within days, two were found places at local hog rescue centres (of which one also died) and two were successfully fostered and released. Another hog was taken in from a rescue centre and fostered back to health for release in Spring 2022. As a thank you for their support a donations were made to the Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue and Hedgehog Friendly Town.

In February we got approval to install swift boxes in the church belfry and hope to do this for the 2022 season.

Approximately 10 bird boxes and two bee boxes were made and sold for installation in the village/parish.

Amongst many new species recorded over the year, notable ones included otter (see below), hare and a brown long-eared bat. Anecdotally, it was a good year for grass snakes but less good for butterflies. A moth trap was operated for the first time throughout a calendar year with 62 nights trapping detecting many new species including a humming bird hawk moth, privet hawk moth, pine hawk moth, box tree moth, canary shouldered thorn, flame carpet, lilac beauty, lychnis, oak beauty, poplar kitten, red underwing, scalloped oak, straw underwing, swallowtail, toadflax pug and a tree lichen beauty.

The village allotments continue to be an important wildlife haven and WAC requested the Parish Council to consider to apply to make them an Asset of Community Value. If the Parish Council decide against this WAC will look into doing this.

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1) Conservation (cont)

WAC objected on wildlife and conservation grounds to a planning application which would have affected a valuable green space in the village. This application was rejected with loss of biodiversity cited as one of the concerns.

Not a WAC initiative, but at the edge of the village, a local landowner has re-instated a large pond 'The Splash', adjacent to the Stour. Already this has attracted many ducks, geese and swans and it will hopefully become a valuable wildlife resource.

2) Education

The conservation efforts themselves each had an element of education but in addition several specific educational events were planned.

The main event of the year was a 'bat detecting and small mammal day' held in September, with Nick Martin as the expert speaker and guide. Over a 24 hour period, a total of 20 mammals were seen on camera or captured in Longworth traps. The highlight was undoubtedly picking up an otter on the infrared night time camera near the River Stour. This was the first time an otter has been confirmed in the village after many rumours and sighting of otter spraint.

A 'dawn' walk in June, especially to appreciate local birdlife took place but attracted only four members - not surprising given the continuous heavy rain!

The charities night time cameras and bat detectors were continually out on loan to villagers as they were keen to learn what was out and about in their gardens. The charities moth trap has been made available to members, to broaden members knowledge and to allow an audit of village moths. 210 macro and 34 micro moth species have now been identified in the village, an increase of over 60 species since 2020. Hopefully a moth trapping event will be possible in 2022/3.

The first newsletter of the year coincided with the RSPB birdwatch event at the end of January and from April through to November, a weekly email newsletter was compiled and distributed to members to highlight seasonal wildlife in the village and surrounding area as well as provide informative text. During National Moth week in July, a daily moth focussed email newsletter was issued focussing on moths seen in the village. The newsletter was well received, particularly with the Covid 19 restrictions and extra focus on nature for many people.

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2) Education (cont)

The local catchment school is setting up a Climate Council and we await to hear more to see if we can be of help with this initiative.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Funding

Over 90% of the Charities funding is expected to come from grants – with the remainder from proceeds from events and also donations.

Following a successful 2020 (5 grants worth £17,400 awarded) 2021 was disappointing. With our purposes applicable to fewer grant giving bodies and also monies seemingly being focussed more on Covid relief and charities in distress we won just one grant of £1,000 from seven applications totalling c£15,000 in 2021. We are very grateful to the Thomas Jackson Foundation for their support.

A further small sum of £144.37 was received from thegivingmachine.co.uk activity and sales.

As such, we have not progressed beyond the one third of the funds needed for the 5 year plan. We plan to return to greater fundraising activity in 2022.

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Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain free reserves of at least 12 months of operating expenditure (costs of generating funds, administration and governance costs). This was set at £2000 for 2021. A further c£17,000 is reserved towards the target for our 5 year plan leaving a further c£37,000 to be raised.

Other Activities

Recruitment of Trustees

The constitution states the body of trustees shall consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 competent, elected trustees. Four trustees were appointed at the formation of the Charity with one resigning on 11th February 2020. Further trustees will be sought in future. Trustees are appointed by members or trustees until their retirement or removal – they do not serve a fixed term.

Major Risks and Management of Risk

The principal risk is failure to attract sufficient grant funding to fulfil our purposes. As we have no salary costs, nor other significant non-project related costs, there is great flexibility in the level of project work each year and the trustees do not consider there to be any significant risks associated with the operation of the charity.

Thanks

Thanks must be extended to our trustees, members and other volunteers for their efforts and involvement over the year.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26th January 2022 and signed on its behalf by



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Dr T M Acreman

Trustee

Wild About Clifford

Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ended 31 December 2021

Income for the year was £1,161.40 with expenditure of £723.98. The charity had a balance of £21,974.40 on 31 December 2021. Details of our bank current account, bank deposit account and petty cash transactions and balances are given in full below.

Wild About Clifford Charity 1184830 - Bank current account 2021											
		IN			OUT						
Date	Details	Amount	Donation	Sales	Amount	Event	Expenses	Purchases	Overhead	to Deposit	Balance
			Grants			Costs				Acc.	
1.1.21	Brought Forward										£882.64
7.1.21	Woodstain and Protector				£32.99		£32.99				£849.65
	Robert Dias - brushes				£4.29		£4.29				£845.36
	Cash to petty cash				£150.00					£150.00	£695.36
	sale of boxes	£15.00		£15.00							£710.36
	sale of boxes	£25.00		£25.00							£735.36
	The giving machine	£29.36	£29.36								£764.72
	Pozi Screw - Tool station				£30.41		£30.41				£734.31
8.4.21	Wickesbuild				£75.44		£75.44				£658.87
01.08.21	Sale of boxes	£32.00		£32.00							£690.87
7.8.21	South Essex Insurance				£203.10				£203.10		£487.77
14.9.21	Paper				£13.98				£13.98		£473.79
4.10.21	Nick Martin				£250.00	£250.00					£223.79
11.10.21	Sale of boxes	£10.00		£10.00							£233.79
26.10.21	hedgehog food				£3.65		£3.65				£230.14
1.11.21	hedgehog food				£7.40		£7.40				£222.74
26.11.21	hedgehog food				£7.40		£7.40				£215.34
26.11.21	Vitrex Multi Purpose Respirat				£6.99		£6.99				£208.35
27.11.25	Digital Angle Tool				£18.35		£18.35				£190.00
29.11.21	Clifford Chambers Charities	£1,000.00	£1,000.00								£1,190.00
2.12.21	Warwickshire Hedgehog Resc				£30.00		£30.00				£1,160.00
2.12.21	Hedgehog Rescue				£30.00		£30.00				£1,130.00
17.12.21	The Giving Machine	£33.01	£33.01								£1,163.01
		£1,144.37	£1,062.37	£82.00	£864.00	£250.00	£246.92		£217.08	£150.00	

Wild About Clifford Charity 1184830 - Petty Cash 2021							
Date	Details	Amount	Donations/	Sundries	Event Costs	Expenses	Overheads
1.1.21	Brought Forward						£129.97
22.2.21	From bank account	£150.00		£150.00			£279.97
25.6.21	sale of hutch	£15.00	£15.00				£294.97
30.11.21	hedgehog food					£9.98	£284.99

Wild About Clifford Charity - Savings Account - 14326525 2021				
Date	Details			Balance
1.1.21	Brought Forward			£20,524.37
24.1.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,524.54
25.02.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,524.71
25.03.21	Interest	£0.16		£20,524.87
25.04.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.04
24.05.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.21
25.06.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.38
25.07.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.55
25.08.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.72
25.09.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,525.89
25.10.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,526.06
25.11.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,526.23
25.12.21	Interest	£0.17		£20,526.40

The financial statements above were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 26th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T M Acreman', written in a cursive style.

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Dr T M Acreman

Trustee