



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date		Period end date	
	1	April	2022	31	March 2023
From				To	

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK	
Other names charity is known by		
Registered charity number (if any)	1197507	
Charity's principal address	2 Grange Crescent	
	Thamesmead	
	London	
	Postcode	SE28 8EX

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	Darren John McEvilly	Chair		Board of Trustees
2	Gowri Jeevaratnam			Board of Trustees
3	Karine Lepeuple	Treasurer		Board of Trustees
4	Francesca Angela McEvilly	Secretary		Board of Trustees
5				
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11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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)

Rae Gellel (Founder/Director)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by the Board of 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.

Trustees are responsible for setting policies and guidelines. Any potential new trustees are advised to read "The essential Trustee" as provided by the Charity Commission. Further, trustees have created an information pack including constitution, minutes of recent trustee meetings and information relevant to the running of the charity and strategic objectives. New trustees are appointed by a majority vote of the current trustees.

The Founder/Director of the charity runs a team of volunteers and makes the day-to-day operational decisions. Volunteers are informed of decisions through social media private groups.

GWN collaborates with a network of wildlife rescue centres outside of London for rehabilitation and treatment. These include South Essex Wildlife Hospital, the Fox Project and the Swan Sanctuary amongst others. By working in conjunction with these organisations, GWN acts as an intermediary between the public and rescue centres which are outside of London, whose help would not be typically sought by London residents due to considerable geographical distance. It allows the organisation to help far many more animals, and also animals with complex veterinary needs that we do not yet have the resources to address.

New volunteers are trained on best practices to rescue animals in a variety of circumstances during training days regularly organised by the Director and trustees. The rehabilitation of animals is only carried out by a small number of experienced volunteers, and mostly by the Director herself. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees and volunteers include risk assessments, induction days and online training videos, avian flu precautions and infection risk guidelines.

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

- For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care.
- To promote humane behaviour towards animals by providing appropriate care, protection, treatment and security for animals which are in need of care and attention by reason of sickness, maltreatment, poor circumstances or ill usage and to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

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)

The Greenwich Wildlife Network has been in existence as a community group since 2018, created and led by Founder Rae Gellel and supported by a small but active group of volunteers. As the charity's reputation spreads further each year the number of calls for animals to be rescued increases exponentially. In its first year since being incorporated in January 2022, GWN rescued in excess of 1,000 sick, injured and orphaned animals in and around the boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley, in South-East London. All requests for help are channelled through the charity's Facebook group which grew to over 6,000 people in 2023.

In shaping our objectives for the period and planning our activities, trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance public benefit: running a charity (PB2).

The aim is to rescue, rehabilitate and release a wide variety of animals, including foxes and cubs, water birds, songbirds, pigeons, and rodents. This also includes some domesticated animals on occasions, such as cats stuck in trees, rabbits, ferrets, cockatiels etc. The charity operates all year round, though the greatest proportion of outwork involves caring for orphaned animals in the spring and summer.

The rise in popularity of GWN and increase in followers has resulted in a surge in rescues. The main challenge for the charity is the limited number of experienced rehabilitators. Currently the majority of the work falls on the shoulders of the Director, who cares for the animals from her own home. GWN is in dire need of premises to enable the scaling up of the operation in 2023. This is the highest strategic priority. In the last 15 months, great efforts have been made to identify premises which would enable the cleaning, feeding and caring of the animals to be shared amongst more volunteers and increase our reach as a result. In early 2022, discussions began with the Royal Borough of Greenwich Regeneration Department, who indicated their willingness in trying to identify suitable premises for the charity. Trustees are also looking at other possible avenues, including the rental of retail premises.

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.

In 2022/23, the charity has relied on donations from the general public to cover its day-to-day operational costs. These include food (11%), medical (14%), cleaning and consumables (24%) and transport expenses (10%). A significant amount (22%) was also spent on infrastructure and equipment such as purchasing cages and building aviaries. We also attract in-kind donations through the charity's Amazon wish list.

In the first year as an incorporated charity, GWN attracted a small number of larger donations, from legacy to corporate giving. Trustees are hopeful that once the annual reports are published, there will be an opportunity to secure further grants as part of our fundraising strategy. Trustees will continue to look to recruit a fundraising trustee to support the delivery of its strategy. The key aim is to attract sufficient funding to enable the charity to secure premises, the next step in its development.

GWN is entirely reliant on a small group of volunteers who tirelessly respond to the public calls for rescues and transport. Most of the rehabilitation before the animal is released is currently done by the Director from her own home, hence the need to find new premises.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The nesting season typically starting at the end of March / early April was extremely busy. The team was well organised in responding to calls this year, the main challenges being on-going issues with space and burn-out of the team. As an example the team dealt with no less than 200 ducklings during spring & summer. At the peak of the nesting season, it was not unusual for the team to respond to 10 or 15 calls for rescues every day. In some situations (for example the rescue of ducklings from unsuitable locations) one rescue operation can include the catching of up to 15 individual animals. This could not be done without the support of a team of 20-30 dedicated volunteers.

GWN works closely with other charities based outside of London, who can take care of the more complex or specialised cases. This includes the South Essex Wildlife Hospital, the Fox Project and others. Sadly due to the avian flu pandemic the Whitby Wildlife Sanctuary, which was the main recipient of birds, had to close its door in early 2022. As a result GWN had to re-focus its efforts to deal with the bottleneck of un-releasable birds that the closure had created. Through an appeal it identified a couple of supporters who kindly agreed for aviaries to be built in their garden. The build was carried out by volunteers and the purchase of materials was made possible through the generosity of a few local retailers who provided some materials at cost. In 2022 around a quarter of the total expenditure of the charity went to building aviaries, purchasing cages, incubators, and other light equipment in the last year to maximise the number of animals who can be taken into care in future.

In addition to wildlife rescue which is the main focus of the charity and occupies the majority of the time from April to October, volunteers are also involved with a number of community-based activities, such as organising litter picking sessions in other local spots which are significant to wildlife or animals, inviting the public to join, and often collaborating with community litter picking groups for a greater impact. Whilst rescuing animals and wildlife is at the core of what the charity does, it's through educating the public that we will reduce the prevalence of animals becoming unwell, injured or distressed due to human negligence. Community outreach is therefore crucial in terms of the wider goals of preventing suffering to animals. GWN has begun to develop educational initiatives, particularly aimed at children and young people in the community, although of late, little time has been available to further this activity. In 2022/23, it also took part in five local community events and delivered two training sessions.

Meanwhile support from the local community has continued to grow with c. 6,500 Facebook followers at the end of the financial year. Two local press articles on the charity were also published, one in My London, the other in News Shopper.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

All reserves are carried forward to the next year. The charity aims to hold a buffer equal to 6 months of key expenditure (which in 2022/23 equated to £6k). Reserves beyond that amount are saved to help the charity transition into premises, which may involve deposit, fees and a substantial increase in outgoings.

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.

Fundraising has been very successful throughout the season, although notably the level of donations dropped in the summer, meaning that the charity needs to continue to be inventive to raise funds. The search for an experienced Fundraiser Trustee continues.

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)

Kyrl

Full name(s)

Karine Lepeuple

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

20/7/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK

1173244

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2022

To

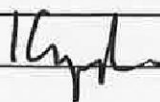
Period end date
31/03/2023

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					
Public donations	22,595	-	-	22,595	-
Grants and legacies	14,430	-	-	14,430	-
Other	282	-	-	282	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,307	-	-	37,307	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,307	-	-	37,307	-
A3 Payments					
Consumables	5,725	-	-	5,725	-
General equipment	5,297	-	-	5,297	-
Medical	3,371	-	-	3,371	-
Food	2,712	-	-	2,712	-
Transport	2,501	-	-	2,501	-
Other	4,477	-	-	4,477	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	24,083	-	-	24,083	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,083	-	-	24,083	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,224	-	-	13,224	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,317	-	-	1,317	-
Cash funds this year end	14,541	-	-	14,541	-

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	Bank	14,300	-	-
	Cash	241	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,541	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		K. LEPEUPPE	28/4/23



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK

On accounts for the year
ended

31 MARCH 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1173244

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

26/4/23

Name:

KATHRYN FEARN

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

AAT

Address:

129A SHOOTERS HILL ROAD
LONDON
SE3 8UQ

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

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.