



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1 April 2023		31 March 2024

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				
6				
7				
8				

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 20-30 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.

Section C Objectives and activities

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 Gellé 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 second year since being incorporated, GWN rescued in excess of 1,700 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 11,000 people in 2024.

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 our work involves caring for orphaned animals in the spring and summer.

The continued rise in popularity of GWN reflected by the (almost) doubling of Facebook followers in the last year has resulted in a huge increase in rescues and a doubling in expenditure, thankfully offset by an equivalent increase in donations. Great strides have been made to address the main challenge which the charity has been facing since its formation. Our main strategic objective to secure premises was finally achieved in September 2023. This has enabled the charity to professionalise its operation and crucially to spread the cleaning, feeding and caring of the animals across a greater number of volunteers. This in turn has meant that the Director and the most experienced rehabilitators have been able to focus on the more critical cases and complex rescues. Trustees have been impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the volunteer team as training was delivered and rotas were implemented to look after the animals 365 days a year.

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 2023/24, the charity has continued to rely on donations from the general public to cover its day-to-day operational costs. These include food (12%), medical (10%), cleaning and consumables (20%) and transport expenses (7%). A significant amount (18%) was also spent on infrastructure and equipment such as purchasing cages for the new premises and maintaining aviaries. The charity also receives in-kind donations through the charity's Amazon wish list.

In its second year as an incorporated charity, GWN attracted a small number of larger donations, from legacy to corporate giving. Trustees are hopeful that once the second annual report is published, there will be an opportunity to secure further grants as part of our fundraising strategy. The key aim is to attract sufficient funding to enable the charity to continue to expand its operation in response to growing demand and to enable the acquisition of a pooled animal transport vehicle.

GWN is entirely reliant on a small but growing group of volunteers who tirelessly respond to the public calls for rescues and transport, as well as those who look after the feeding and cleaning of animals while on rehabilitation before they can be released.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

GWN has continued to be extremely busy and far busier than the previous year. The volunteers are now monitoring the impact of the charity by recording the number of rescues along with the number of animals in our care. The number of rescues for the reporting year was 1,435, an increase of 60% on the previous year. As many rescues involve more than one animal (e.g. duck and ducklings nested in unsuitable locations), the total number of rescued animals was 1,787. 1,348 of these were birds, of which the humble pigeon was in the majority, but also 233 ducks, 25 gulls, 126 songbirds and 11 raptors. Volunteers also rescued 184 foxes, 10 hedgehogs and 3 bats. Other animals rescued included swans, parakeets, mice, magpies, crow, squirrels, coots, rats, geese, collared doves, slowworm, woodpecker, jays, chicken, wren, cormorant, canary, woodcock, grass snake, dunnock, kingfisher and a frog,

A number of domestic animals were also rescued, including 18 cats, 3 hamsters, 4 chinchillas, 1 ferret and 17 rabbits.

As a result of the pressure in the spring and summer 2023 the Director and core volunteers experienced extreme burnout and it was a huge relief to finally secure rented premises (the unit) in September. The burden is now shared amongst other volunteers, the objective being that at least half of all animals that need care are placed at the unit. Volunteers attend the unit daily and fulfil the role of cleaning and checking on the animals, with the daily routine taking approximately 2-3 hours. As the number of areas to coordinate is growing, GWN gives the more experienced volunteers the opportunity to become coordinators for the unit and soft release aviaries. All this could not be done without the support of a team of 20-30 dedicated volunteers.

The need for help did not reduce at all towards the end of the summer as it had in previous years. There was a sharp increase in the number of fox rescues in the autumn and winter. Dedicated fox rescuers are starting to rely on GWN to cover parts of London that have poor coverage for foxes such as South West/ South and East London.

GWN also dealt with an increase in duck and duckling rescues this year. The way new buildings are being designed and constructed (roof terraces/balconies/ornamental lagoons) is having a disastrous impact on wildlife. New build apartment complexes along the Thames have the highest level of need. GWN are considering a campaign to educate those responsible (property developers) about these problems and also the threat to wildlife that netting is bringing on an almost weekly basis such as birds trapped in or on the netting itself.

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. Finding long term homes for disabled birds is still proving difficult. There are plans to create a second aviary in one of the volunteer's garden which will require the garden to be cleared first.

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. 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.

Training was completed for 25 people who were interested in becoming volunteers. We are continuing to hold sessions to train volunteers for the unit and for transport/ rescue. This also included a working at height training session delivered by a local firefighter.

A volunteer picnic was held in August which had a good turn out and gave the opportunity for volunteers to meet each other and the team.

GWN participated in the following community activities:

A tree watering day was held on a local common at the end of the very long dry summer. A good number of volunteers attended as well as members of the local community.

GWN attended Halley Academy DSP and spoke to the pupils in the ASD provision, we took along the ferrets for them to meet and they all enjoyed it very much. In January we attended Autistic Inclusive meets weekly club for children and adults with Autism and took along the ferrets and rabbits for them to meet.

We also visited Blackheath Preparatory School to give a talk in assembly to the whole school in March. The school has since chosen to fundraise for the charity until July 2025.

In spring 2024 the charity took on a sixth form work experience pupil from Kings Park ASD special provision helping in the unit weekly with his support worker.

Anti - catapult campaign: There have been many incidences of wildlife being catapulted in local parks, mainly by youths from travelling community groups. Waterbirds have been killed, injured and needed rescue from Priory Gardens and The Tarn at Mottingham. There are reports from parks in Swanley and other ponds in the borough of Greenwich. GWN started a campaign to highlight the problem and try to educate young people that this is not acceptable. The Director attended an online session with police and wildlife experts - a group will be formed within the wildlife crime unit that will look into the problem - they will need the public to report to Police to bring it into the forefront.

Meanwhile support from the local community has continued to grow. Engagement on Facebook and Instagram has been good due to the number of rescue stories and we now have over 11,000 followers on Facebook.

Finally, a number of stories were also reported in the media:

- MyLondon April 2023; "*Ducks getting confused by ornamental ponds*" <https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/ducks-getting-confused-ornamental-ponds-26773534>
- MyLondon May 2023: "*Passenger saves baby fox found running around on train tracks in South London*" <https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/passenger-saves-adorable-baby-fox-26738395#:~:text=An%20adorable%20fox%20cub%20was%20rescued%20from%20train,an%20oncoming%20service%20on%20Tuesday%20evening%20%28April%2018%29.>
- News Shopper May 2023 "*Thamesmead Swan is rescued by volunteers after attack*" <https://www.newssshopper.co.uk/news/23500261.thamesmead-swan-rescued-volunteers-attack/>

- News Shopper October 2023 "*Cormoran bird dies after being rescued from Danson Park Lake*"
<https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/23849410.cormorant-bird-dies-rescued-danson-park-lake/>
- London Fire Brigade website October 2023 "*Animal rescue Woolwich*" <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2023/october/animal-rescue-woolwich/>
- LondonNews Shopper November 2023 "*Kitten rescued by firefighters after getting stuck in Woolwich car*"
<https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/23908168.kitten-rescued-firefighters-getting-stuck-woolwich-car/>

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 2023/24 equated to £25k). Reserves have not increased significantly in the last year as funding went to moving into our new premises and fitting it out with cages and necessary infrastructure. Thanks to public donations it was not necessary to dip into existing reserves for the fit-out.

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 to match the doubling of our operational expenditure. The charity needs to continue to be inventive to raise funds and we are hopeful that our new experienced Fundraiser volunteer will succeed in securing larger grant in our third operating year.

Section F

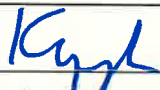
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Karine Lepeuple	
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	

Date

13/8/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK

1173244

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
4/1/2023

To

Period end date
3/31/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Public donations	41,765	-	-	41,765	22,595
Grants and legacies	9,395	-	-	9,395	14,430
Other	600	-	-	600	282
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	51,760	-	-	51,760	37,307
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	51,760	-	-	51,760	37,307
A3 Payments					
Consumables	10,212	-	-	10,212	5,725
General equipment	8,907	-	-	8,907	5,297
Medical	4,945	-	-	4,945	3,371
Food	6,270	-	-	6,270	2,712
Transport	3,519	-	-	3,519	2,501
Rent & Utilities	5,580	-	-	5,580	4,477
Consulancy	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
Other	6,050	-	-	6,050	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	50,483	-	-	50,483	24,083
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	50,483	-	-	50,483	24,083
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,277	-	-	1,277	13,224
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,541	-	-	14,541	1,317
Cash funds this year end	15,818	-	-	15,818	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	15,514	-	
	Cash	304	-	
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,818	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/24

Charity no
(if any)

1173244

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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.

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

Signed:

Date:

30/4/24

Name:

KATHRYN FEARN

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

AAT

Address:

129A SHOOTERS HILL ROAD

LONDON

SE3 8UQ

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).

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