

E1 Waterbird Welfare
Reference and Administrative Details
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees
P F Jeffers
S Crowther
M P Jeffers
E Donovan

E1 Waterbird Welfare
Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered office
Flat 1
26 Narrow Street
London
E14 8DQ

Charity registration number
1198441

Registered Charity number
1198441

HMRC Charities reference number
2016748



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E1 Waterbird Welfare

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report and income and expenditure statement for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Charity was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") on 30 March 2022 having been granted charitable status by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on that date. It is registered charity number 1198441.

Recruitment, appointment and induction of Trustees

The Trustees are of the opinion that they are sufficient in number to administer the Charity's affairs at present, given its size and the nature of its activities. When additional or replacement Trustees are required, it is the responsibility of the existing/remaining Trustees to seek prospective appointees who are supporters of and in sympathy with the Charity's objectives. Such persons will be sought from among the Charity's supporters and will need to be both willing and able to make a valid contribution to the objectives of the Charity and its ongoing work. New Trustees are given a "Charity Trustee Welcome Pack" based on the Charity Commissioner's Guidance.

Organisational structure

The Trustees meet on a regular basis throughout the year (they met seven times during the year to 31 March 2024) and communicate on an ongoing basis via a dedicated WhatsApp account. All financial decisions are made by the Trustees as a group, with formal approval of all expenditure being required by at least two Trustees.

The term of office for MP Jeffers came to an end on 31 March 2024 and he was unanimously reappointed to continue as a trustee at the Trustee meeting on 18 March 2024.

Risk assessment and management

The Charity has a written risk policy which is reviewed at each meeting of the Trustees in relation to the risks associated with the operations of the Charity. The current activities of the Charity are not considered to carry risk. Public liability insurance is taken out by the Trustees as required for running the fundraising market stall.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims of the Charity as set out in its constitution are as follows:

To promote the conservation of biological diversity and the natural environment in London E1 and surrounding areas for the public benefit by:

1. Working to enable the wild waterbirds to thrive and survive in an urban environment;
2. Providing resources to facilitate rescue and rehabilitation;
3. Enhancing habitat; and

4. Raising awareness in the local community.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Charity seeks to raise funds and awareness to support the waterbirds of East London and surrounding areas. It seeks to keep the state of the habitat occupied by the local waterbirds under review, liaising with local authorities and other bodies where necessary in order to facilitate and fund improvements where needed. The Charity also works in collaboration with other appropriate organisations (i.e. waterbird rescue, rehabilitation and veterinary organisations) and seeks to raise funds to provide grants and equipment to support and facilitate the rescue and rehabilitation of injured, distressed and sick waterbirds. It maintains regular presence at local events and on social media to provide education and to raise awareness within the local community, in particular promoting kindness and responsible behaviour around wild birds.

Public benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on providing a public benefit. They are confident that the Charity's activities are in line with its charitable objectives and are achieving the purposes for which the Charity has been established.

The Trustees have discussed the issue of public benefit and are confident that the breadth and scope of the work the Charity undertakes, as disclosed in this report, complies with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Fundraising

The Charity has had a very successful year in respect of fundraising, with the Trustees continuing in their endeavours to raise money to support the running costs of the local Swan Ambulance, to purchase much needed rescue equipment and to improve the habitat of the local waterbirds.

Funds are primarily raised through donations of cash from members of the public and also from the sales of donated items. The Charity is regularly hosted by the organisers of Wapping Docklands Market at Shadwell Basin who very kindly provide us with a market stall pitch for free. The Charity ran six fundraising market stalls (five at Shadwell Basin and one at York Rise) in the year to 31 March 2024. The Charity also seeks to sell donated items of value through online platforms, such as Vinted and Ziffit, and has a dedicated charity eBay account.

The location of Shadwell Basin market and its local waterbird population (including an established swan pair) provides an ideal setting for awareness raising activity, with many visitors to the market stall coming to chat and seek advice regarding the local waterbirds. Storage space for donated items is very kindly donated by volunteers as is the cost (£36 per market day) of hiring a gazebo for the market stall.

Donations are very kindly made by local waterbird supporters, many of whom have required assistance with waterbirds in the past, as well as visitors to the market stall. We also have an active FaceBook page which reports on the Charity's activities, many of which are in collaboration with other wildlife and waterbird organisations, such as the Swan Sanctuary and Swan & Waterbird Rescue Service.

Eight E1WW "hi-vis" jackets were donated during the year, along with Christmas cards and notelets to sell on the market stall to raise funds. A volunteer designed the Christmas cards and notelets.

The Charity is registered under the HM Revenue & Customs Gift Aid scheme and keeps a record of cash donations qualifying for tax relief. The Charity is also registered under the PayPal Giving Fund through which it regularly receives donations.

Distribution of Funds

During the year, the Charity purchased much needed equipment including an emergency ladder for the Swan Ambulance that was urgently needed to facilitate the complicated rescue of a swan with an injured wing trapped at East India Dock. The ladder has since been used in other emergencies.

The Charity also purchased 18 specialist swan rescue jackets (used for the transportation of injured swans) for the Swan Ambulance and also to distribute strategically to local volunteers to ensure ready availability in key locations where swan and goose rescue is likely to occur. These are bespoke pieces of equipment produced by Ratsey & Lapthorne (Cowes) Ltd and cost £90 each (although we managed to negotiate a discounted rate for bulk purchase). We also purchased an emergency buoyancy device (a second one was donated) to assist with local rescues, along with nets and long poles needed for rescues.

Whilst the local Swan Ambulance itself is provided by the Swan Sanctuary, the costs of running it are not and we continued to make grants towards the running costs via Swan & Waterbird Rescue Service. We also made a grant to a local Swan Sanctuary volunteer towards the cost of a kayak which has since proved invaluable in local waterbird rescues.

The Charity funded numerous other projects, such as the provision of emergency rafts at Spirit Quay, various nesting rafts at Shadwell Basin, the provision of hazard tape and flight diverters amongst other things (see under "Projects and activities" for more detail).

Projects and activities

E1 Waterbird Welfare is not a rescue organisation but volunteers are often called upon to assist other wildlife organisations with waterbird rescues, often acting as first responders to shore up the safety of injured or displaced waterbirds and reporting back on rescue situations until an appropriately experienced/qualified rescuer can get to the scene.

We continue to keep the local community updated on our activities via our FaceBook page which is regularly updated with news and awareness raising information.

We continued to keep a constant eye throughout the year on the habitat occupied by the local waterbirds, liaising with local authorities and other bodies as appropriate to ensure the safety of and where possible the enhancement of the habitat of the local waterbirds. In particular:

- We were actively involved in the Wapping Greening Project, in respect of the installation of new floating reed beds and rafts at Spirit Quay. This involved liaising with Tower Hamlets Council Green Team regarding the design of the project to ensure safety of the waterbirds, and also fielding a team of volunteers to help with the implementation and installation of the new floating platforms. There was a significant unexpected delay between the removal of the existing rafts and the installation of the new rafts, due to local council funding issues, leaving the waterbirds at Spirit Quay vulnerable with little means to shelter during the winter months. The Charity lobbied the local council regarding the delay in installing the new rafts and in the interim provided emergency rafts to protect the waterbirds over the winter months. Following the completion of the Wapping Greening Project, the emergency rafts were redeployed to other locations with waterbirds urgently in need of additional nesting/resting facilities.
- The summer brought with it the usual large number of baby herring gulls falling prematurely from their nests on high buildings. We assisted with the rescue of and transportation of numerous young gulls to South Essex Wildlife Hospital (SEWH), the cost of which was funded directly by volunteers. The Charity also contributed towards the provision of some boxes to safely transport the birds to SEWH.
- We liaised with Thames 21 regarding the floating rafts on the Limehouse Cut. It had been noted that netting had been left on the rafts when they were newly planted several years ago. In addition to presenting a serious hazard with waterbirds becoming entangled in the netting, it was also making it impossible for waterbirds to access the rafts, leaving the young exposed and vulnerable to predators and thus impossible for ducklings, cootlets and moorhen chicks to survive in that location. With permission and assistance from Thames 21, we undertook a project to remove the netting (which was no longer required for the now mature plants) and install ramps to enable access for young waterbirds. We have been delighted to note that a healthy number of ducklings survived into adulthood over the summer.
- In August 2023 we worked with Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre (SBOAC) to provide a new swan raft after the resident swan pair nested on the Activity Centre's pontoon last year, disrupting the Centre's activities. We funded the cost of the new swan nesting raft which was installed with assistance from the Activity Centre. The raft was enthusiastically received by the family and their six cygnets. Unfortunately, the raft was seriously vandalised and broken beyond use shortly after it was installed. Emergency repairs were undertaken, and we took the opportunity to have the raft enlarged. We also worked with the local council and the Activity Centre to review the location of the raft to attempt to reduce the risk of further vandalism. The swan pair went on to produce five cygnets on the raft in May 2024.

- We installed hazard tape at Spirit Quay following reports of waterbirds flying into the fencing protecting the swan nest.
- We liaised with the East End Canoe Club regarding the suspension of goal post ropes across the Limehouse Cut, creating a potential flight hazard for local waterbirds. We funded flight diverters to suspend from the goal post ropes to make them more visible and thus less likely to cause serious harm to birds in flight.
- We met with the Canary Wharf Environmental team to liaise regarding the design of the Eden Wharf project to ensure suitability for the local waterbirds, in particular the use of netting around the floating platforms used to protect the new plant growth but potentially hazardous to the waterbirds. It is hoped that this new development will provide much needed additional safe habitat for local waterbirds.
- We continued to build relationships with local Marinas, in particular Limehouse Marina and Poplar Marina with a view to engaging in a joint project to improve the environment of the waterbirds occupying the marinas. There are plans to install new floating rafts to replace the existing ones which are now dilapidated beyond repair. It is expected that this project will be completed in time for the 2025 nesting season.
- There is very little in the way of natural nesting material for the waterbirds in the local area. We funded and supplied several bales of straw to various nesting sites in the local area.
- Volunteers assisted with numerous duckling rescues over the Spring/early summer where ducks had nested on buildings, boats and other unusual places, as well as acting as first responders for swans involved in territorials or mislandings.
- Other sundry projects included the provision of public information “dos and don’ts” signs above swan nests; a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of keeping dogs under control around waterbirds; arranging a litter pick at the swan nest on the Regent’s Canal; removing more hazardous netting from South Dock; organising the collection of unwanted bedding for use in the Swan Ambulance for transportation of birds; repairing the swan raft at Limehouse Marina.
- Trustees and volunteers also give their time and resources freely to assist in the collection, transportation and temporary housing of sick and injured birds to assist the rescue organisations that the Charity works with.

Financial review

The Trustees were pleased to note that a total of £4,683 was raised in the year against a target of £4,000. A surplus of £3,421 was brought forward from the year ended 31 March 2023 giving rise to available funds during the year of £8,104. A total of £6,749 was expended during the year leaving a cash balance at 31 March 2024 of £1,355.

Policy on reserves

It has been the Trustees' aim to ensure that funds raised are earmarked and expended on matters pertaining to its cause as soon as practicably possible. As a rule of thumb, it is the Trustees' aim to seek to retain a reserve of £500 in case of unforeseen emergencies such as the need for the provision of emergency equipment or urgent transportation of sick or injured birds in the absence of the availability of a volunteer with a car.

Plans for future periods

Aims and key objectives for future periods

The Trustees will continue to seek to raise funds and awareness through local events. We will continue to review local nesting sites and areas frequented by waterbirds with a view to improving the environment for them. The Trustees will continue to build relationships and networks with local authorities, businesses and other organisations to facilitate this, and will continue to contribute towards the cost of running the Swan Ambulance.

This report is approved by the Trustees of the Charity and signed on its behalf

by:

P F Jeffers

P F Jeffers

15/1/2025

Trustee

E1 Waterbird Welfare
Receipts and payments
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	£	£
Balance brought forward from 1 April 2023		3,421
Receipts		
Charitable donations received in the period [note 1]		
- Donations qualifying for Gift Aid	1,563	
- HMRC Gift Aid	240	
- Donations (other)	883	
Sales of donated items [note 2]	1,984	
Bank Interest	13	
Total receipts		4,683
Total funds available		8,104
Payments		
Grants allocated in the period [note 3]	2,920	
Funding of rescue equipment and supplies [note 4]	1,810	
Funding of floating rafts [note 4]	1,842	
Public liability insurance [note 5]	127	
Administrative expenses [note 6]	50	
Total payments		6,749
Surplus carried forward		£1,355

It should also be noted that other vital items were also donated during the year, including a new table for the market stall, the cost of a canopy for each market stall, three large bird carriers, a swan jacket, several nets/poles, duckling carriers and several sacks of waterbird pellets and food. Storage space for market stall stock was also donated by a volunteer and

E1 Waterbird Welfare
Year ended 31 March 2024
Supporting notes to the accounts

Note 1

Charitable donations

Throughout the year donations totalling £1,563 were made under the Gift Aid Scheme, qualifying for tax relief. The relevant Gift Aid declarations were obtained from donors. Donations totalling £883 were made through the Charity's PayPal Giving Fund account.

Note 2

Sales of donated items

Donated items were sold throughout the year at local fundraising events (Shadwell Basin Market, York Rise) and also on-line through relevant platforms such as Vinted and Ziffit.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Note 3		
Grants allocated in the period		
Swan and Waterbird Rescue Service	2,250	1,500
Local Swan Sanctuary volunteer (AM)	600	595
East End Polo Club (flight defenders for goal posts)	70	-
Swan Support (registered charity) (replacement rescue kit)	-	60
Hollow & Eagle Ponds (AI feeding programme)	-	200
Total	£2,920	£2,355

Note 4

Funding of rescue equipment, supplies and rafts

The following items were purchased in the year:

	£
Equipment for Limehouse Cut habitat project	100
Purchase of 18 bespoke swan rescue bags	1,415
Emergency rope ladder for Swan Ambulance	144
Buoyancy Aid	23
Bales of straw for nesting rafts	74
Five duck/coot nesting rafts	1,155
One swan raft (Shadwell Basin)	473
Repairs and extension to swan raft	214
Total	£3,598

It should also be noted that other vital items were also donated during the year, including a new table for the market stall, the cost of a canopy for each market stall, three large bird carriers, a swan jacket, several nets/poles, duckling carriers and several sacks of waterbird pellets and food. Storage space for market stall stock was also donated by a volunteer and

the pitch at Shadwell Basin Saturday Market was donated free by the organisers of the market.

Note 5

Public liability insurance

The Trustees are required to take out public liability insurance to be able to participate at Shadwell Basin Market at a cost of £28.89 per market day.

Note 6	2024	2023
Administrative expenses	£	£
Domain name licence (info@e1ww.co.uk)	26	17
PayPal admin charges	4	9
iZettle charges (market credit card machine)	<u>20</u>	<u>38</u>
Total	<u>£50</u>	<u>£64</u>

The domain name licence was cancelled during the year and exchanged for a free Gmail account.