

E1 Waterbird Welfare
Reference and Administrative Details
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees
P F Jeffers
S Crowther
M P Jeffers
E Donovan

E1 Waterbird Welfare

Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered office
Flat 1
28 Narrow Street
London
E14 8DQ

Charity registration number
1198441

Registered Charity number
1198441

HMRC Charities reference number
ZD16748



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E1 Waterbird Welfare

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report and income and expenditure statement for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 three times during the year to 31 March 2025) 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 S Crowther came to an end on 31 March 2025 and she was unanimously reappointed to continue as a trustee at the Trustee meeting on 11 February 2025.

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 another 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 where possible.

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 at Shadwell Basin in the year to 31 March 2025. 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.

Christmas cards and notelets were again donated by a volunteer to sell on the market stall to raise funds. Another 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

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. A new Swan Ambulance was funded by the Swan Sanctuary during the year and we contributed £1,000 towards the cost of the livery signage on the new ambulance. We also made a grant to a local Swan Sanctuary volunteer towards petrol and transportation costs and also the cost of rescue equipment.

A grant of £250 was made to the Lower Regent's Canal Coalition ("LRCC") as a small contribution towards the cost of replacing £5,000 worth of equipment that was stolen or destroyed during a break in at their premises. The work of LRCC is crucial to the welfare of the local waterbirds and wildlife in general, as they play a major role in maintaining the lower end of the Regent's Canal, including the maintenance of platforms for the wildlife and organising events to clear the litter from the waterway to maintain a safe environment for the wildlife.

The Charity funded numerous other projects, such as the provision of emergency rafts at various locations, the funding and renovation of rafts at Limehouse Marina, the provision of hazard tape and straw bales, and also various items of much needed rescue equipment 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 and support 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 to highlight a few areas:

- We continued to build relationships with local Marinas, in particular Limehouse Marina and Poplar Marina. As planned last year, we engaged in a joint project during the year to improve the environment of the waterbirds occupying Limehouse Marina, by funding and installing a number of floating platforms for the birds, including a large swan platform. We also designed and renovated two recycled floating platforms, one of which was floated in anticipation of the hatching of goslings in a location that would have been impossible for the family to return to. There are plans to renovate and install further floating platforms to replace the existing ones which are dilapidated.
- We received a number of reports from around the local area of nests that had been built on high inaccessible structures such as boats, in areas with little or no alternative means for the newly hatched young to be able to get off the water to brood with their parents, leaving them vulnerable to getting waterlogged and unable to survive. We designed, funded and built six small emergency rafts which were used in situations to provide ducklings and the young of other small waterbirds emergency access to dry space. We also funded, designed and built a number of emergency ramps that were deployed in emergency situations to provide re-access to nesting sites inaccessible to non-flighted newly hatched young, for example in situations where nests had been built on platforms too high for the young to access.
- We assisted with the rescue of and transportation of numerous young herring gulls that had fallen prematurely from their nests on high buildings in the local area, including the City of London. Volunteers transported the young gulls to South Essex Wildlife Hospital (SEWH), the cost of which was funded directly by volunteers.
- Once again, we arranged to install hazard tape at Spirit Quay to prevent the local waterbirds (in particular the ducks) from flying into the fencing protecting the swan nest in that location.
- Volunteers assisted on a number of occasions in reporting, monitoring and rescuing waterbirds impacted by fuel spills and other environmental issues on local waterways.
- 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, including Shadwell Basin, Spirit Quay, Limehouse Marina, South Dock, and Lower Regent's Canal.
- Volunteers assisted with numerous duckling rescues over the Spring/early Summer where ducks had nested on high buildings, boats and other unusual places, as well as acting as first responders for swans involved in territorials or mislandings.
- We continued our campaign to raise awareness of the importance of keeping dogs under control around waterbirds, creating and utilising laminated signage

provided by the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crimes Unit in local spaces where there have been incidents involving off leash dogs and waterbirds. We participated in the Tower Hamlets "Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order" highlighting the current dangers to local wildlife and the need to provide more protection from uncontrolled dogs.

- We continued to provide of public information "dos and don'ts" flyers regarding feeding the waterbirds and information signs above swan nests. We arranged a litter pick at the swan nest on the Regent's Canal and also Spirit Quay and also removed more hazardous netting from the rafts at South Dock. We also organised the collection of unwanted bedding for use in the Swan Ambulance for transportation of injured birds.
- Trustees and volunteers also give their time and resources freely to assist in the collection, transportation and temporary housing of sick and injured birds (and on occasion other wild animals) to assist other local rescue organisations.

Financial review

The Trustees were pleased to note that a total of £4,774 was raised in the year against a target of £4,000. A surplus of £1,355 was brought forward from the year ended 31 March 2024 giving rise to available funds during the year of £6,129. A total of £4,905 was expended during the year leaving a cash balance at 31 March 2025 of £1,224.

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 the Swan Ambulance or 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 local Swan Ambulance.

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

.....
P F Jeffers
Trustee

provided by the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit in local spaces where there have been incidents involving off leash dogs and waterbirds participating in the Tower Hamlets "Dog Control Public Space" highlighting the current dangers to local wildlife protection from uncontrolled dogs.

E1 Waterbird Welfare

Receipts and payments

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	£	£
Balance brought forward from 1 April 2024		1,355
Receipts		
Charitable donations received in the period [note 1]		
- Donations qualifying for Gift Aid	1,895	
- HMRC Gift Aid	378	
- Donations (other)	825	
Sales of donated items [note 2]	1,662	
Bank Interest	14	

Total receipts

	4,774
Total funds available	6,129

Payments

Grants allocated in the period [note 3]	3,450
Funding of rescue equipment and supplies [note 4]	409
Funding of floating rafts [note 4]	840
Public liability insurance [note 5]	141
Administrative expenses [note 6]	65
Total payments	4,905

Surplus carried forward

	£1,224
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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 local Swan Ambulance.

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

P J Jeffers
Trustee

E1 Waterbird Welfare

Year ended 31 March 2025

Supporting notes to the accounts

Note 1

Charitable donations

Throughout the year donations totalling £1,895 were made under the Gift Aid Scheme, qualifying for tax relief. The relevant Gift Aid declarations were obtained from donors. Donations totalling £825 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) and also on-line through relevant platforms such as Vinted and Ziffit.

Note 3

Grants allocated in the period

	2025 £	2024 £
Swan and Waterbird Rescue Service	1,500	2,250
Local Swan Sanctuary volunteer (AM)	700	600
East End Polo Club (flight defenders for goal posts)	-	70
The Swan Sanctuary	1,000	-
Lower Regents Canal Coalition	250	-
Total	£3,450	£2,920

Note 4

Funding of rescue equipment, supplies and rafts

The following items were purchased in the year:

	£
Renovation of rafts at Limehouse Marina	334
Provision of emergency rafts	189
One swan raft for (Limehouse Marina)	317
Emergency ramps	50
Bales of straw for nesting rafts	111
Rescue nets and extending poles	75
Emergency bird carriers/hot water bottles	161
Hazard tape	12
Total	£1,249

It should also be noted that other items were also donated during the year, including another new table for the market stall, the cost of a canopy for each market stall and several sacks of waterbird pellets and food. Storage space for market stall stock is 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.

Note 6

Administrative expenses

	2025	2024
	£	£
Domain name licence (info@e1ww.co.uk)	-	26
PayPal admin charges	-	4
iZettle charges/credit card machine	65	20
Total	£65	£50

The domain name licence was cancelled during the year ended 31 March 2024 and exchanged for a free Gmail account. All PayPal payments are now made through the PayPal Giving Fund.

2,320	1,500	Grants allocated in the period
600	700	Swan and Wistland Reserve Services
70	-	Local Swan Sanctuary volunteer (AAV)
-	1,000	East End Polo Club (light defenders for goal posts)
-	250	The Swan Sanctuary
-	-	Lower Regent Canal Condition
£2,990	£3,450	Total

Note 7

Funding of rescue equipment, supplies and staff
The following items were purchased in the year:

204	Renovation of raft at Limehouse Marina
120	Provision of emergency raft
317	One swan raft for (Limehouse Marina)
22	Emergency ramps
111	Bales of straw for nesting rafts
75	Rescue nets and extending poles
181	Emergency bird canisters/hot water bottles
12	Harvest tape
£652	Total

It should also be noted that other items were also donated during the year including another row table for the market stall, the cost of a canopy for each market stall and several sacks of waterbird pellets and food. Storage space for market stall stock is also