

# **Planet Birdsong Foundation**

## **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts**

From the term of 6 July 2022 through 31 December 2023

**Reference and administrative details**

Trustees:	Peter Cowdrey
	Isak Herman
	Hilary Macbean

Registered Office:	14 Ashwood Place, Ashwood Road, Woking, GU22 7JR
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Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, Victoria Branch, London (309950)
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**Trustees' Report for the period through 31 December 2023**

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period from inception, recognized as 6 July 2022, through 31 December 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (revised 2019).

**Structure, Governance and Management****Legal Status**

Planet Birdsong Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales and gained charitable status on 6 July 2022.

**Governing Document**

The Planet Birdsong Foundation is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Organisational Structure**

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and the members of the company limited by guarantee. Throughout this report they are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The following individuals served as trustees during the period:

Peter Cowdrey  
Isak Herman  
Hilary Macbean

All trustees served for the full period unless otherwise stated above.

The Board meets as required to oversee the strategic direction of the charity and to monitor progress in achieving its performance and quality objectives. Day to day implementation of the strategy is managed by the Trustees supported by volunteers and, when funds allow, freelance staff.

**Objectives and principal activities**

The Planet Birdsong Foundation exists with the following objects:

- [1] To advance the education of the public in the subject of birdsong and biophony through music, technology, and creative activities;
- [2] To advance education and training of the public, including conservation biology students, in birdsong, and bird sound, and biophonic recording, with field work and tutoring in sound processing;
- [3] The advancement of science by promoting study and research into birdsong and biophony, alongside other organisations, and working with those other organisations

to publish the useful results of such research

In furtherance of its charitable objectives, the charity carries out a range of activities which are summarised below.

### **Activities and Achievements**

During 2023 Planet Birdsong Foundation had a high profile at EA Sustain Festival in Colchester, including the birdsong studio, mobile games, and a performance by the Conference of Birds. We subsequently delivered the birdsong studio and mobile games to a wide variety of people at the Suffolk Show in Ipswich, in collaboration with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We actively looked for partners to collaborate in developing and updating our mobile games, which are essential to the continued global expansion of Planet Birdsong.

The Planet Birdsong Rwanda bird sound recording project continued to develop. We concluded an MOU with the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda. One Trustee visited Rwanda and trained young citizen scientists at 6 hubs in the skills of sound recording.

234 samples were collected and logged on international data sites. Local recordists were increasingly active in training other students. We attended Global Birdfair and promoted our activities with a view to raising funds.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 17 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Planet Birdsong Foundation carries out a range of activities in furtherance of its charitable objectives, as detailed under Activities and Achievements, which the trustees believe provide benefit to the general public worldwide.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have reviewed the risks the charity faces and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to the major risks.

The major risk facing the charity during 2023 was the need to raise funding to allow the Charity to continue to operate at this level in future years.

### **Future Plans**

In 2024 Planet Birdsong made good progress on its work in Rwanda. We were awarded the African Bird Club Conservation Award 2024. A visit by one Trustee led to the establishment of 4 facilitated Planet Birdsong Recordists and at least 20 competent and regular recordists. The current total of samples collected is 418 in 2024 and some rarely recorded sounds have been obtained. Skills continue to grow both in existing and new recordists. The citizen science method is proven to work.

In the UK we had a stand at Global Birdfair in July, which enabled us to make

contact with a number of potential partners in Africa and elsewhere, including Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin team, with whom we co-hosted an event.

We continued to develop low cost *parachirp* parabolic reflectors with Time and Space Learning. These can be flat packed and used with any mobile phone,

Fundraising activities included collaborating on a major installation at Raby Castle in Teesdale, and leading a number of birdsong walks at Asthall Manor in Oxfordshire.

**Statement of Financial Activities**

for the period 6th July 2022 through 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds thru 2023 (£)	Total Funds thru 2023 (£)
Income	1		
Donations		748.24	748.24
Charitable Activities		0	0
Other Income		0	0
Total Income		748.24	748.24
Expenditure			
Charitable Activities		0	0
Total Expenditure		0	0
Net Income		748.24	748.24
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward		0	0
Total funds carried forward		748.24	748.24

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. The notes on page 8 form part of these financial statements.

**Balance Sheet**

as at 31 December, 2023

	Note	2023 Value (£)
Fixed Assets		NONE
Tangible Assets		0
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		748.24
Creditors		NONE
Amounts falling due within one year		0
Net Assets		748.24

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 October 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Peter Cowdrey, Chair

**Notes to the accounts for the period ending 31st December, 2023****1. Principal accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

**(a) Basis of accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2019 (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)), UK accounting standards, including 'Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Planet Birdsong Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**(b) Fund accounting**

- (i) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- (ii) Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donor as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

**(c) Income**

Income is recognised and included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- (i) Donations are received by way of grants, donations and gifts and the income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants receivable are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- (ii) Donated services and facilities (gifts in kind) are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.
- (iii) The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included as income in these accounts.
- (iv) Income from charitable activities includes income earned both from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance-related grants. Grants receivable are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- (v) Investment income is included when receivable.
- (vi) Income is deferred when it is received in one financial period but relates to a future period. This may happen for example when a contract includes a mobilisation advance or upfront payment for a period that straddles the year end.

**(d) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, and includes any VAT which cannot be recovered.

- (i) Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure related to the direct furtherance of the charity's objectives. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
- (ii) Support costs relate to those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel and governance costs. These costs have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
- (iii) The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included as expenditure in these accounts.

**(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing over £500 (including any incidental expenses of acquisition) are capitalized.

**2. Trustee remuneration and expenses**

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services as trustees during the year.

**3. Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.