

FOREST KIDS ANNUAL REPORT
For the period 20th July 2022 to 31 December 2023

A. Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Forest Kids

Registered Charity Number: 1199728

Principal Address: Woodcock, Fox Hills Lane, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6AF

Trustees:

Sam Stephens (Chair), appointed 20 July 2022 by governing document

Peter Findley, appointed 20 July 2022 by governing document

Anne Richardson, appointed 20 July 2022 by governing document

Bank: Virgin Money

B. Reference and Administration

Type of Governing Document: CIO Constitution

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

How New Trustees are Appointed: Resolution of existing Trustees

C. Objectives and Activities

Objectives:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith for the public benefit, in accordance with the statement of faith in the schedule, in Surrey and Hampshire and in such other parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees may determine, especially in relation to children and young people.
2. The advancement of education for the public benefit, in relation to the environment and the natural world, in Surrey and Hampshire and in such other parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees may determine, especially in relation to children and young people.

Main Activities

Forest Kids exists to enable children and young people in the Ash area and beyond to find a place of belonging where they can explore the Christian faith, improve their mental and physical wellbeing, and cultivate an interest in and care for the natural environment. This is done through regular age-appropriate group activities in a woodland setting.

The Charity was formed in July 2022, and started running activities for children in November 2022. The Charity has been offered the use of Candle Wood, adjoining Henley Business Park, free of charge for sessions with children, and this has been very suitable for its needs so far.

Transport for the children to get to Candle Wood has been provided by renting a minibus from Woking Community Transport, whose help and support is gratefully acknowledged.

D. Management and Performance

The Charity began children's activities through the use of volunteers, including the Team Leader, Sarah Adamson. Contributions to the Charity's work through friends and networks brought in funds more quickly than expected, with the result that it was possible to employ Sarah for one day a week from December 2022.

Children were contacted principally through schools, churches, community organisations and social media.

Volunteers have come through contacts made in local churches.

Initially it has been possible to run fortnightly sessions on Saturday mornings in school term time. The Trustees anticipate the possibility of running weekly at some point in 2023, as team numbers permit.

Between ten and fifteen children have attended each session. Activities include games, bushcraft learning and pursuits, learning about the woodland environment, and faith-based stories to help children explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and unpressured environment.

Once a term, the Charity has invited carers and parents to be present and engage in activities alongside the children.

Home visits are made in the week preceding each session, to build relationships with the children and their families.

The Trustees were appointed by the Charity's foundation document, its CIO Constitution. No new appointment of trustees has been made during the financial period. The Trustees met 6 times during the financial period.

The Trustees are very grateful for the volunteers who help to run the charity's events; without their hard work and willingness, it would not be possible for the Charity to carry out its work effectively.

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning activities. They are confident that the Charity's activities as outlined in this report meet the public benefit requirements.

Forest Kids

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balances for the period from 20 July 2022 to 31 December 2023.

These accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments method available to CIOs with income below £250,000.

Receipts

Giving (Stewardship)	£9,623
Giving (Other)	£2,759
Other Income	£216
Total Receipts	£12,598

Payments

Staff Salaries and Pension	£5,891
Staff Expenses	£355
Insurance	£587
Safeguarding	£182
Administration	£0
Equipment and Materials	£1,594
Transport (Minibus Hire)	£1,196
Training	£207
Other Expenditure	£10
Total Payments	£10,021

Surplus / deficit	£2,577
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Balances

Opening Balance (20/07/22)	£0
Receipts	£12,598
Payments	£10,021

Closing Balance	£2,577
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No Trustee received any remuneration or expenses in relation to their services as trustees.

The Charity has given no guarantees and has no capital commitments or long term contracts.

Candle Wood is part owned by one of the Trustees, and the Charity uses it by permission. No payment is made by the Charity for its use of the wood. This arrangement is reviewed annually by the other Trustees. Except as stated in this paragraph, there were no related party transactions during the financial period.

E. Financial Review

The Charity's first financial period ran from 20 July 2022 to 31 December 2023. Subsequent periods will end on 31 December in each year.

The Charity's main source of income is regular giving from individual supporters (£12,382). Most giving comes via Stewardship, which collects Gift Aid on the Charity's behalf. Total income for the period was £12,598.

The Charity's main expenditure consists of salaries and pension (£5,891), equipment and materials for sessions (£1,594), and the hire of minibuses for transport (£1,196). Total expenditure was £10,021, leaving a net balance of £2,557. The Trustees consider that these reserves are sufficient for the Charity's needs.

The Charity has no restricted funds. The Charity does not hold any investments for income generation, or any interest in land.

The Charity has not made or received any grants.

Risk Assessment and Safeguarding

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and have policies and procedures in place to mitigate these risks.

F. Declaration

No serious incident has occurred during the financial period which should have been reported to the Charity Commission.

The Trustees have approved this report.

Signed

 (July 4th 2024)

Sam Stephens Chair of Trustees