

FOREST KIDS ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1st January 2024 to 31 December 2024

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 (resigned 26th September 2024)

Sophie Burrows, appointed 26 March 2025 by Resolution of the Trustees

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 has continued its work in delivering woodland-based sessions, with an expansion from fortnightly to weekly sessions during term time in the summer of 2024. This increase was made possible through the recruitment of a new volunteer. Termly family events have continued, along with pre-session home visits.

Each session welcomed up to 18 children, with an average attendance of 11. Over the year, 16 new children joined, with referrals primarily coming from a local school. Participants have continued to enjoy learning bushcraft skills, deepening their understanding of the natural environment, and engaging in discussions about the Christian faith and positive life choices. A noticeable increase in confidence has been observed in many of the children. Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly highlighting improvements in social skills and connections.

The Trustees extend their sincere gratitude to the volunteers who support the charity's events. Their dedication and willingness make it possible for the Charity to continue its valuable work. The Trustees met three times during the financial period.

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.

Financial Review

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

The Charity's main source of income is regular giving from individual supporters (£10,584). Most giving comes via Stewardship, which collects Gift Aid on the Charity's behalf. Total income for the period was £10,700.

The Charity's main expenditure consists of salaries and pension (£5,689), equipment and materials for sessions (£1,202), and the hire of minibuses for transport (£1,424). Total expenditure was £9,257, leaving a net surplus of £1,443 and total reserves of £4,020. 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

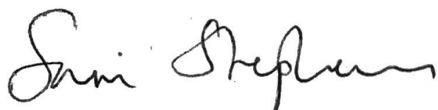
The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and have policies and procedures in place to mitigate these risks.

E. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Stephens', written in a cursive style.

Sam Stephens Chair of Trustees

Forest Kids

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balances for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Giving (Stewardship)	£8,754	£8,106
Giving (Other)	£1,830	£2,459
Other Income	£117	£28
Total Receipts	£10,700	£10,593
<u>Payments</u>		
Staff Salaries and Pension	£5,689	£5,484
Staff Expenses	£222	£69
Insurance	£435	£435
Safeguarding	£234	£182
Administration	£0	£0
Equipment and Materials	£1,202	£990
Transport (Minibus Hire)	£1,424	£988
Training	£52	£37
Other Expenditure	£0	£10
Total Payments	£9,257	£8,195
Surplus / deficit	£1,443	£2,398
<u>Balances</u>		
Opening Balance	£2,577	£179
Receipts	£10,700	£10,593
Payments	£9,257	£8,195
Closing Balance	£4,020	£2,577

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.