

SOUTH STOKE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1202352

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-03-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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South Stoke
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO PROMOTE FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT IN AND AROUND THE PARISH OF SOUTH STOKE, OXFORDSHIRE, THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY: 1. PROMOTING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT OF GREEN SPACES WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT; INCLUDING THE PROVISION OR ASSISTING WITH THE PROVISION OF ANY FACILITIES THAT ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO BETTER ENGAGE WITH THESE SPACES.

Activities: The conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity and wildlife-friendly management of green spaces within the area of benefit; including the provision or assisting with the provision of any facilities that allow the public to better engage with these spaces.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£6,773	£5,771	-	-
2024-04-05	£3,115	£4,295	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Carlton Lindley	Chair	2023-03-16
Alison Clare Brazenor		2023-03-16
Heather Cora Bonner		2026-03-04
Ian Roger Haslam		2023-03-16
Kate Hawker		2023-03-16
Nathalie Weekes		2023-03-16
Paul Andrew Jenkins		2023-03-16
Penelope Jane Hutton		2024-08-06

SOUTH STOKE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1202352

Accounts

South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group: Trustees' Report May 2025

The Wildlife Group has now been active for four years and is well established in the Parish, and, as well as having good links with other local nature-based groups, is now firmly on the map of Oxfordshire societies benefiting the environment.

The group has again been very active and has continued to run a varied series of events in pursuit of our aims - to promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the environment around us. We have continued to attract commensurate grant funding for our activities, as well as raising funds from events such as quiz nights, together with donations.

Our main objectives for the year have been around hedge planting, habitat improvement - which has included hedge laying - and participation in groups seeking to restore local spaces for better conditions for wildlife.

During the last year we also ran the following activities in South Stoke; regular wildflower and invertebrates surveys, a dragonfly survey, our annual glow worm survey, installation of swift boxes, a pond dipping event, butterfly and dragonfly surveys, a talk on Gardening for Wildlife, two wildlife based pub quizzes, repeated bird survey transects (conducted by a local birder) and several trips to nature reserves. We also took a stall at the annual May Fair with the aim of engaging with the community, promoting our activities and raising funds.

Trustees visited the Knepp rewilding site for inspiration, Lardon Chase to view the spring butterflies and Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire to look at the trees.

The improvement and ongoing maintenance of the reclaimed parcel of land that is now designated White Hill Quarry has been given over to the Wildlife Group by the Parish Council and we have organised for a local group - Wallingford Green Gym - to undertake hedge laying activities along with general improvements to this beautifully maturing haven for nature.

We made significant progress on our strategic aims this year:

1. We continued planting hedging along Icknield Rd by the old aerodrome - this year our volunteers planted just over 230m in total - and we are approaching a kilometre of new hedging over the

lifetime of the group. We also planted twenty disease-resistant elm trees around the parish.

2. We continued to work with nature-based advocate groups and funders to work up a long-term vision for specific areas for wildlife improvement and restoration in and around South Stoke; this includes an active role in the steering group for the Lower Meadow planned restoration, alongside the Parish Council, the Environment Agency and BBOWT.
3. We continue to provide support for other areas in the parish that need volunteers to develop and maintain their sites eg The Park community growing areas and environs.
4. We continue to record species and numbers into national databases to contribute to an understanding of trends and issues – to date we have identified nearly 1,500 species around South Stoke and submitted 5,400 biodiversity records to the iRecord database.
5. We contributed to the Oxfordshire lead Local Nature Recovery Strategy by identifying areas within the parish that have significant potential to be improved for nature.
6. In terms of education and involvement we have built a growing online presence with 109 Facebook followers, a regularly updated website and a quarterly published e-newsletter, now enjoyed by over 100 subscribers.

In terms of funds SSWCG finished the year with reserves of £1926.23, with income of £6773.74 and expenditure of £5771.22 over the period. Income included two grants from SODC, two from TOE, one from CAG and further amounts from fund raising, including from two pub quizzes and a Village BBQ, plus additional sums from donations. In terms of financial strategy, the Trustees agreed to establish a Reserve Fund to cover running costs in the event of a collapse in income, at a level of two years of these costs estimated at £1000, and to be built up over two years. Please see the separate Financial Report for 2024/2025 for further details.

Plans for 2025/26 include further hedge planting and laying, planting of more trees - including disease-resistant elms and rare Black Poplars - installation of additional Swift nesting boxes to expand colonies, running our regular activities and surveys in order to continue identifying and recording species and to explore and progress new opportunities to protect and enhance South Stoke's environment.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our many supporters, notably Maggie Filipova-Rivers, our District Councillor who helped us again this year with more generous grant funding. We were

also given funds by the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, the Community Action Group and several individual donors. We would like to offer condolences to Martin Bullock's family following his death in September last year and convey our appreciation for his generosity in allowing us to plant hedges and undertake wildflower surveys across his land. Also, to Guy Hildred for allowing this, and last year's, hedge planting on his land.

As ever we would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers - who pitch up in all weathers - and all the rest of the Trustees who contribute their time, energy and effort into making the group enjoyable and successful.

**Ian Haslam, Chair, South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group,
May 2025.**

South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group

Registered Charity No. 1203252

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ending 5 April 2025

INCOME	2024/2025		2023/2024	
	£	£	£	£
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2023/24)		-		930.00
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2024/25)		943.00		-
TOE Grant No 1		160.00		-
TOE Grant No 2		1,496.52		-
CAG Grant		119.00		-
SODC Councillor Grant		800.00		-
Fund Raising		2,294.92		1,695.32
Gift Aid		105.00		67.50
Donations				
Cash	840.00		379.00	
Go Fund Me	14.31	854.31	43.67	422.67
Other		0.99		
TOTAL INCOME		6,773.74		3,115.49

EXPENDITURE	£		£	
Activities		3,955.47		2,509.38
Equipment		1,206.16		662.98
Website		423.59		-
Marketing & Advertising		-		956.00
Meetings		16.00		8.00
Insurance		170.00		158.92
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		5,771.22		4,295.28

NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES 1,002.52 (1,179.79)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5 APRIL 2025

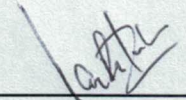
RESERVES

General Fund				
As at 6 April 2024		923.81		2,103.60
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,002.52		(1,179.79)
		1,926.33		-
Transfer to General Reserve		(500.00)		-
Transfer from General Reserve		-	1,426.33	
General Reserve as at 6 April 2024				
Transfer from General Fund		500.00		-
Transfer to General Fund		-	500.00	
		1,926.33		923.81

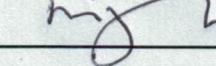
REPRESENTED BY

Balance at Bank as at 6 April 2024

	£		£	
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2022/23)		159.28		159.28
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2023/24)		44.13		44.13
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2024/25)		64.21		-
TOE Grant No 1		-		-
TOE Grant No 2		-		-
CAG Grant 2024		-		-
SODC Councillor Grant (2025)		119.58		-
General Fund		1,039.13		720.40
General Reserve		500.00		-
		1,926.33		923.81

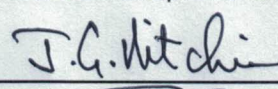
Committee Chair: Signed: 

Date: 14/04/25

Honorary Treasurer: Signed: 

Date: 14.4.25

I have examined the books, vouchers and bank statements relating to South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group Charity and in my opinion they show an accurate representation of the Group's finances.

Honorary Auditor: Signed: 

Date: 25.4.25

SOUTH STOKE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1202352

Accounts

South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group:

Trustees' Report May 2024

This was the third full year of our Wildlife Group and as well as many positives there were challenges during the year for the group. The group has again been very active and has continued to run a varied series of events in pursuit of our aims - to promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the environment around us. We have adapted to our new status as a registered charity (CIO) without any significant issues and we have continued to attract grant funding. There is a concern that we are not attracting enough volunteers to take part in some of the events e.g. wildflower surveying, or some of our maintenance work, and we are planning to review this shortly with regard to the set-up of the group.

During the last year we ran the following activities in South Stoke: Wildflower survey programme; Bat survey; Dragonfly survey; Glow worm survey; Hedge planting; No-mow sign competition; Wildflower grow-along; Hedge surveys; Hedgehog surveying/mapping; Invertebrate survey; Fruit tree pruning/maintenance teach-in; Moth trap survey.

We again took a stall at the annual May Fair with the aim of engaging with the community, promoting our activities and raising funds - with the highlight being the 'Name the Hedgehog' cake, which attracted lots of interest and raised significant funds.

Also, for promoting the Wildlife Group's activities (and general enjoyment) we organised two quizzes with a wildlife theme, held at the Perch & Pike and which were both sold out and enjoyed by all attendees. A joint BBQ with the Amenities Charity on the Rec was also held, which again was a community building success and raised awareness of our existence and our aims.

Trustees visited the RSPB Otmoor Nature Reserve, Withymead Nature Reserve and the Trap Grounds in Oxford in order to appreciate other nature reserves and wildlife spaces, with several other visits planned, including the Knepp Estate, Ewelme watercress beds, Lardon Chase and Cholsey Meadows. A joint visit with Mend the Gap in June was made to the Rivers of Life #2 project where we were shown the wetlands restoration project that had been undertaken with the Earth Trust along the Thames above Little Wittenham.

The group had carried out several maintenance sessions up at White Hill Quarry, which is maturing as hoped together with an increase in new wildflowers e.g. pyramidal orchids. A long-term solution for the maintenance work is planned for the site, and joint discussions with the Parish Council are planned for later this year.

SSWCG has continued to use iRecord this year, and now totals 4,349 records in our Activity. The iRecord app is used to enter records from wildflower and glow-worm surveys directly during the events, and it has been used as the basis of a GIS mapping exercise for species location and density conducted by a student at Reading University for their dissertation

We made significant progress on four strategic aims this year:

1. We completed the hedging along the boundary, near Postman's Path including some infill where 2022's planting had suffered from the summer drought conditions, as well as in The Park where it expedited the progress of the project. This year, our volunteers planted just over 200m in total.
2. We continued to work with The Environment Agency, Mend the Gap, TOE and others to work up a long-term vision for specific areas for wildlife improvement and restoration in and around South Stoke. We stepped back from a plan for a potential wetlands restoration of the Lower Meadow, alongside the Earth Trust, as the Parish Council is negotiating a 20 year lease for the site with Christ Church College.
3. We are pleased to see that significant progress has been made on The Park project, although as a group we have only been involved as volunteers and providing specialist advice when asked for by the management group and the Parish Council - as was agreed with them during a November meeting. Despite this, we have had sustained negative comments targeted at us due to our original proposal for a community orchard and growing area on The Park.

In terms of funds SSWCG finished the year with reserves of £923, with income of £3,115 and expenditure of £4,295 over the period. The 'overspend' is essentially a matter of timing with respect to grant expenditure made in and prior to the 2023/24 year. A further grant from TOE was awarded to the group in March for £1,650, to be spent on hedging materials and pond-dipping equipment.

As ever we would like to take this opportunity to thank our many supporters, notably our South Oxfordshire District Councillor who helped us again this year with some generous grant funding. We were also given funds by the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and several individual donors. Also, to local farmers for allowing further hedge planting, hedge surveying and for hosting our wildflower walks. We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, who pitch up in all weathers, and all of the Trustees who contribute their time, energy and effort into making the group enjoyable and successful.

Ian Haslam, Chair, South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group, May 2024.

South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ending 5 April 2024

	2023/2024	2022/2023
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
SODC Grant No1	-	3,010.00
SODC EA Grant	-	537.00
SODC EA Grant	930.00	-
CAG Grant	-	100.00
Fund Raising	1,695.32	1,071.20
Gift Aid	67.50	-
Donations		
Cash	379.00	210.51
Go Fund Me	43.67	283.16
Kind	-	293.85
	422.67	787.52
TOTAL INCOME	3,115.49	5,505.72
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£
Activities	2,509.38	3,057.14
Equipment	662.98	186.99
Website	-	293.85
Marketing & Advertising	956.00	-
Meetings	8.00	-
Insurance	158.92	192.00
Subscriptions	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,295.28	3,729.98
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(1,179.79)	1,775.74
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5 APRIL 2024</u>		
<u>RESERVES</u>	£	£
As at 6 April 2023	2,103.60	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(1,179.79)	2,103.60
	923.81	2,103.60
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>	£	
Balance at Bank as at 6 April 2024		
SODC Grant No1 (2022/23)	-	1,550.32
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2022/23)	159.28	330.91
SODC Everyone Active Grant (2023/24)	44.13	-
General Fund	720.40	222.37
	923.81	2,103.60

Committee Chair:

Ian Haslam

Signed: _____

Date: 21/04/24

Honorary Treasurer:

Mark Taylor

Signed: _____

Date: 21.4.24

I have examined the books, vouchers and bank statements relating to South Stoke Wildlife & Conservation Group Charity and in my opinion they show an accurate representation of the Group's finances.

Honorary Auditor:

Joe Ritchie

Signed: _____

Date: 1.5.24