



Plummer Parsons
Chartered Accountants

Charity registration number 205245

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditor

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Committee Members

Mrs P Arnold (Chairman)
Mrs H Randall (Vice Chair)
Mr N Lovett (Treasurer)
Mrs J Wirdham (Secretary)
Mrs R Marriott
Mrs S Taylor
Mrs D Barber MBE

Charity number

205245

Principal address

Ashdown Forest Centre
Wych Cross
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5JP

Independent examiner

Alastair Towler BFP ACA DChA
18 Hyde Gardens
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4PT

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

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THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The committee members present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the society's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The society's objects as laid down in the constitution are:-

- By voluntary effort to assist in the conservation of Ashdown Forest and the implementation of the charitable purpose of the Forest Act;
- to provide funds for the purpose of supplementing in such manner as the Society think fit the resources available to the Board of Conservators; and
- to encourage interest in the conservation, maintenance, preservation and peaceful enjoyment of the Forest by such means as the Society thinks fit.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to publicise the existence of the Society by whatever means are thought fit and to raise funds by way of donations, subscriptions and legacies and there has been no change in these during the year.

The committee members have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the society should undertake regarding public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The committee have continued to work, in a wholly voluntary capacity, to represent your interests in assisting the conservation, preservation and educational aspects of Ashdown Forest.

During this financial year, we have continued to support the funding of the Forest Centre Education Programme. The academic year 2021-22 has been an extremely successful one for the education team and school visits have moved towards returning to pre-pandemic normality. Nearly 3000 children from 49 schools have visited during the year and the team has, in addition, conducted outreach sessions in schools in the area. As school budgets are now very tight and coach travel is becoming much more expensive, some schools have taken up the travel bursaries provided by the Friends.

Financial review

The results for the year show a surplus of £8,116 before movements on fixed asset investments (2021: £5,216). Taking into account realised and unrealised gains on investment assets, the overall net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £4,482 (2021: £26,901).

The Trustees consider that it is sufficient to maintain a reserves policy equal to 6 months or the Charity's normal expenditure, this is estimated to be around £11,600. At the year end the free reserves totalled £58,572, being more than the reserves policy. The Trustees plans to utilise this excess of free reserves in the coming period.

The committee members have assessed the major risks to which the society is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees believe that there are no material uncertainties about the charity being able to continue as a going concern.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Plans for future periods

The demands on the Friends are likely to remain for the foreseeable future and our mission is to continue to support the Conservators where we can in these uncertain financial times. In the light of recent funding cuts to the Forest and the pressures on their re-structured staff team, we shall not be actively seeking opportunities to purchase land in the future. We shall continue to support the Forest Centre Education Programme and this remains a priority. We shall also endeavour to help fund other projects as they arise in times to come.

Structure, governance and management

The society was established by a charitable trust deed on 2nd December 1961.

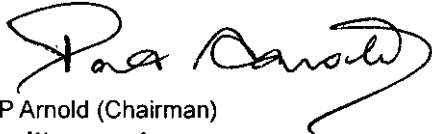
The committee members who served during the year were:

Mrs P Arnold (Chairman)	
Mrs H Randall (Vice Chair)	
Mr N Lovett (Treasurer)	
Mr J Sharp	(Deceased 31 July 2022)
Mrs J Wirdnam (Secretary)	
Mrs R Marriott	
Mrs S Taylor	
Mrs P Wilson	(Resigned 2 December 2021)
Mrs D Barber MBE	

Appointments of the honorary officers were made at the AGM held on 2 December 2021 with Mrs P Arnold being re-appointed as Chairman, Mr N Lovett re-appointed as Treasurer, Mrs H Randall appointed as Vice Chairman and Mrs J Wirdnam re-appointed as Secretary.

The committee consists of The Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and not more than nine other persons. A member of the committee serves for three years. One third of the committee retires annually by rotation. To be a committee member one must be a member of the Society.

The committee members' report was approved by the Board of Committee Members.



Mrs P Arnold (Chairman)
Committee member

29 November 2022

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

I report to the committee members on my examination of the financial statements of The Friends of Ashdown Forest (the society) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the committee members of the society you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the society's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the society as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Alastair Towler BFP ACA DChA

18 Hyde Gardens
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4PT

Dated: 20/12/2022

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	31,292	-	31,292	26,226	-	26,226
Investments	4	31	-	31	6	-	6
Total income		31,323	-	31,323	26,232	-	26,232
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	2,850	-	2,850	5,700	-	5,700
Charitable activities	6	20,357	-	20,357	15,316	-	15,316
Total expenditure		23,207	-	23,207	21,016	-	21,016
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	(3,634)	-	(3,634)	21,685	-	21,685
Net movement in funds		4,482	-	4,482	26,901	-	26,901
Fund balances at 1 July 2021		191,921	388	192,309	165,020	388	165,408
Fund balances at 30 June 2022		196,403	388	196,791	191,921	388	192,309

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

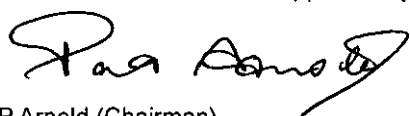
THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	12		138,219		141,853
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	13	3,939		6,654	
Cash at bank and in hand		55,923		45,032	
		59,862		51,686	
Current liabilities	14	(1,290)		(1,230)	
Net current assets			58,572		50,456
Total assets less current liabilities			196,791		192,309
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		388		388
Unrestricted funds			196,403		191,921
			196,791		192,309

The financial statements were approved by the Committee Members on 29 November 2022



Mrs P Arnold (Chairman)
Trustee



Mr N Lovett (Treasurer)
Trustee

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	18		10,860		1,784
Investing activities					
Investment income received		31		6	
Net cash generated from investing activities			31		6
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			10,891		1,790
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			45,032		43,242
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			55,923		45,032

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Friends of Ashdown Forest is a charitable trust. The principal address is Ashdown Forest Centre, Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5JP.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the society's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The society is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the society. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the committee members have a reasonable expectation that the society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the committee members continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the committee members in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the society is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the society has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the society has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from sale of items such as DVD's is recognised on receipt.

Income received from HM Revenue & Customs relating to Gift Aid is recorded when it is received. This is due to the uncertainty around when a Gift Aid return will be completed and filed after the donation is received.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when the liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

Both Support and Governance costs are recharged to the main activity and form part of charitable expenditure with a separate analysis being provided in the notes. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the statutory requirements of the charity and include independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs include non-recoverable VAT.

1.6 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The society has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the society's balance sheet when the society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the society's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the society's accounting policies, the committee members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022 £	2021 £
Donations and gifts	26,292	26,226
Legacies receivable	5,000	-
	<u>31,292</u>	<u>26,226</u>
Donations and gifts		
Donations	-	15,914
Gift Aid	-	3,461
Other	26,292	6,851
	<u>26,292</u>	<u>26,226</u>

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022 £	2021 £
Interest receivable	<u>31</u>	<u>6</u>

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Newsletter printing and postage	2,850	5,700
	<u>2,850</u>	<u>5,700</u>

6 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	17,682	11,821
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,385	2,267
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,290	1,228
	<u>20,357</u>	<u>15,316</u>

7 Grants payable

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants to institutions:		
Education & school travel	6,272	5,869
Friends Wood	-	1,320
Replacement radio	-	4,632
Website Conservators	10,710	-
	<u>16,982</u>	<u>11,821</u>
Grants to individuals	700	-
	<u>17,682</u>	<u>11,821</u>

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	1,146	-	1,146	1,165	-	1,165
Insurance and fee	239	-	239	232	-	232
Website costs	-	-	-	870	-	870
Accountancy	-	1,290	1,290	-	1,228	1,228
	<u>1,385</u>	<u>1,290</u>	<u>2,675</u>	<u>2,267</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>3,495</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>1,385</u>	<u>1,290</u>	<u>2,675</u>	<u>2,267</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>3,495</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiners of £530 (2021- £504) for independent examination fees, and £760 (2021- £724) for other services.

9 Committee Members

None of the committee members (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or reimbursements during the year.

During the year the charity paid £239 (2021- £232) towards charity insurance, which included Trustee indemnity insurance.

The total aggregate amount of donations received (without conditions) from the Trustees amounted to £422 (2021- £408).

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022 £	2021 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>(3,634)</u>	<u>21,685</u>

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 July 2021	141,853
Valuation changes	(3,634)
At 30 June 2022	138,219
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2022	138,219
At 30 June 2021	141,853

13 Trade and other receivables

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other receivables	3,707	6,461
Prepayments and accrued income	232	193
	3,939	6,654

14 Current liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and deferred income	1,290	1,230

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 July 2020 £	Movement in funds Incoming resources £	Balance at 1 July 2021 £	Movement in funds Incoming resources £	Balance at 30 June 2022 £
Chelwood Vachery	388	-	388	-	388

The fund labelled Chelwood Vachery consists of amounts received with the restricted purpose of reclaiming and improving an area of Ashdown Forest known by this name.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2022 are represented by:						
Investments	138,219	-	138,219	141,853	-	141,853
Current assets/(liabilities)	58,184	388	58,572	50,068	388	50,456
	<u>196,403</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>196,791</u>	<u>191,921</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>192,309</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

18 Cash generated from operations

	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus for the year	4,482	26,901
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(31)	(6)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	3,634	(21,685)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	2,715	(3,462)
Increase in trade and other payables	60	36
Cash generated from operations	<u>10,860</u>	<u>1,784</u>

19 Analysis of changes in net funds

The society had no debt during the year.