

**The World of Owls**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)**  
**Year ended 31 July 2023**

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023.

**Reference and administrative details**

<b>Registered charity name</b>	The World of Owls
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NI100938
<b>Company registration number</b>	NI041189
<b>Principal office and registered office</b>	World of Owls Centre 32 Mountshalgus Lane Randalstown Co Antrim BT41 3LE Northern Ireland

**The trustees**

Mr Michael Gibb  
Mrs Charlene Gibb  
Ms Christine Palmer  
Mrs Paula Sawyer  
Ms Allison Sutherland

<b>Company secretary</b>	Elaine Gibb
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Gary Martin FFA/FIPA 4 Newtown Crescent Newtownards BT23 7GP

**Structure, governance and management**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs.

# **The World of Owls**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 July 2023**

#### **Objectives and activities**

World of Owls (Woo) is the only animal sanctuary of its kind in Northern Ireland and as such is the premier Owl, Birds of Prey and Exotic Animals conservation centre in the country. The primary objective of the organisation is to support the survival of owls through rescue, conservation, education, research and restoration of their natural habitat.

The animals in our care have all been rescued due to sickness, maltreatment and neglect. In caring for them, we also provide a large range of benefits to the public at large, including education on animal welfare, and the prevention of cruelty as well as broader environmental and ecological issues. For our younger visitors, the education programme is clearly linked to the NI Revised Curriculum taught in their schools.

We provide employability training and volunteering opportunities to a number of different welfare, and community based organisations province wide. We also work with Jobs & Benefits, the Education Authority, schools, colleges, universities, and disability groups in providing work experience placements, education and training in an ecological and environmental framework. Woo therefore operates with volunteers from so many different walks of life offering them opportunities and enrichment from so many different activities.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit. There is absolutely no private benefit and no potential harm from any of Woo objectives.

#### **Achievements and performance**

World of Owls continues its strong links with the Education Authority, other education bodies and providers province wide and continues to deliver services under the conditions and aims of our Mission Statement. This is growing annually giving us a strong overall financial position.

Fundraising activities continued throughout the year and in the opinion of the trustees, were successful.

The NI Protocol brought on by Brexit continues to cause problems around supplies of food and equipment from England. We still need to source goods from other EU countries which continues to have a negative effect on prices due to increased transportation costs. Energy prices have also increased significantly over the last year placing extra pressure on our operating costs.

Pre-pandemic, World of Owls won a number of awards which helped to slingshot the charity into the top twenty list of tourism destination for Northern Ireland. Out of a survey of 150 attractions World of Owls came in at 18<sup>th</sup> winning "Best Small Visitor Attraction 2019/20" by the NITB and Local Council Tourist intuitive and "Best Small Animal Attraction" runner up for "George Best City Airport" tourism awards 2019/20.

These awards led onto a "Best Animal Attraction" award from Mr. Justin Reid, Director of Media, Destinations, Hotels and Growth at TripAdvisor. Building on this, we also won TripAdvisor's Award of "Top 10% of Attractions Worldwide" and "Best Small Animal Visitor Attraction 2023 NI".

In terms of general operations, we have now, after a lot of negotiations, secured a lease extension on our premises from Jan 2024 to Jan 2034. This will provide the stability needed for us to plan for continued growth at the site. In line with the organisation's statutory responsibilities 3 Senior Staff took part in First Aid Training and AED Defibrillator training which enhances the safety for our visitors and volunteers.

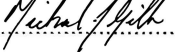
#### **Financial review**

The deficit for the year and the manner in which it has been dealt with, are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***  
**Year ended 31 July 2023**

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on..........and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr Michael Gibb  
Trustee