

Friends of the Zoo

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107494

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2022-01-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Belfast Zoological Gardens Antrim Road Newtownabbey Bt36 7pn BT36 7PN
Phone	028 9077 6277
Email	fo_bz@hotmail.com
Website	www.belfastcity.gov.uk/zoo/volunteer

Activities

Purposes: We aim to promote and support Belfast Zoo in a variety of exclusively charitable ways, including its conservation and education programmes, and fundraising for projects.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

How the charity works: Environment/sustainable development/conservation

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£3,187	£3,424	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Aisling Mcknight		
Daniel Kennedy		
Grainne Mcknight		
Laura Jones		
Lauren Kelleattie		
Michaela Doherty		
Miss Katie Christie		
Mr Tom Hanna		
Mrs Alison Whann		
Mrs Gayle Hanna		
Ms Noele Christie		

Friends of the Zoo

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Accounts

Friends of the Zoo

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024

	£	£
Cash in Bank account as at 1 January 2024	2664.74	
Total Balance as at 1 January 2024		2664.74
INCOME		
Trading	1099.10	
Donation	2052.09	
Recycle4Charity	36.25	
Total		3187.44
EXPENDITURE		
Zoo Project (Dinosaur)	2278.80	
William Brown award	250.00	
Bank Charges	63.70	
Insurance	231.55	
Fundraising materials	140.24	
Payment to Trustees -- Fundraising	16.30	
Payment to Trustee -- Travel	29.30	
Payment to Trustee -- Volunteering Equipment	414.22	
Total		3424.11
Cash in Bank Account as at 31 December 2024	2428.07	
Total Balance as at 31 December 2024		2428.07

NOTES

TCV membership free for 12 months

Committee has pre-approved £235.78 in volunteering and office expenses, and £63.12 for fundraising expenses

Pledged £350.00 for William Brown award for year 2024/25


Cheque for £100 issued in relation to 2023/24 William Brown award. Cashed on 2 January 2025.

No other outstanding liabilities or credits

Income and Expenditure Account prepared by

Name *Jemma Jones*
Signed *JJ*
Date *29/03/25*

Income and Expenditure Account checked by Independent Examiner

Name KEITH SWAGIE
Signed 
Date 16/4/25

Income and Expenditure Account approved by Committee

Name TOM HANNA
Signed Tom Hanna.
Date 12/6/2025

Income and Expenditure Account approved at AGM

Name Tom Hanna
Signed Tom Hanna.
Date 30/7/2025 .

Friends of the Zoo

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107494

Accounts

Friends of the Zoo

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023

	£	£
Cash in Bank account as at 1 January 2023	11240.09	
Cash in PayPal account as at 1 January 2023	68.32	
Total Balance as at 1 January 2023		11308.41
INCOME		
Trading	166.30	
Donation	590.53	
Recycle4Charity	59.25	
Ravenden Refund	420.72	
Total		1236.80
PayPal	0	
Total		0
Grand Total		1236.80
EXPENDITURE		
Zoo Project (Sloth Snug)	8000.00	
Bank Charges	63.47	
Insurance	231.55	
25th Anniversary Dinner	1345.00	
Payment to Trustee -- Fundraising	164.63	
Payment to Trustee -- Travel	7.50	
Payment to Trustee -- Volunteering Equipment	0	
Total		9812.15
PayPal Payment to Trustee -- Fundraising	68.32	
PayPal Fees	0	
Total		68.32
Grand Total		9880.47
Cash in Bank Account as at 31 December 2023	2664.74	
Cash in Paypal as at 31 December 2023	0	
Total		2664.74

NOTES

TCV membership free for 12 months

Committee has pre-approved £200 in volunteering and office expenses, and £37.05 for fundraising expenses

Awaiting credit from Recycle 4 Charity £16.50

Pledged £350.00 for William Brown Award

No other outstanding liabilities or credits

Income and Expenditure Account prepared by

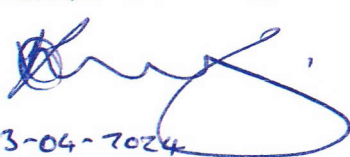
Name LAURA JONES

Signed 

Date 23/01/2024

Income and Expenditure Account checked by Independent Examiner

Name KEITH SAVAGE BSc.

Signed 

Date 13-04-2024

Income and Expenditure Account approved by Committee

Name TOM HANNA

Signed Tom Hanna.

Date 17/4/2024

Income and Expenditure Account approved at AGM

Name Tom HANNA

Signed Tom Hanna.

Date 8/5/2024.

Friends of the Zoo

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107494

Annual report

Annual Trustees' Report for the *Friends of the Zoo*.

This report relates to the charity's financial year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The charity aims to promote and support Belfast Zoo in a variety of exclusively charitable ways, including its conservation and education programmes, and fundraising for projects.

During the year, our biggest expense was providing funding for a purpose-built Sloth Snug. The sloths settled in well and have since bred, enhancing the visitor experience and making them more visible, so the money given to a contractor to complete this work was incidental and necessary in making this project happen.

We assisted zoo staff and the zoo gardeners with preparation of the site for the new Kingdom of the Barbary Lion, which was opened in August 2023. These animals (previously from north Africa) are extinct in the wild, and the new enclosure has given them much more space, with specialist very large viewing windows. As a result, the visitor experience is enhanced by a much better view of these amazing creatures.

Throughout the year, we have staffed a number of touch tables, including at the zoo's Sensory Days (for those with additional needs). These consist of animal artefacts and confiscated items contravening CITES and allow us to stress regulations regarding animal imports. The artefacts also have a variety of different textures and shapes for those with additional needs. The zoo has received positive feedback from the public regarding these, with one visitor describing the touch table as their favourite bit of the zoo.

Throughout the year we have engaged in fundraising activities, both on and off the zoo site. This has involved bucket collections in retail venues and our ever-popular tombola. We have taken in far more than we have spent on prizes, so this private benefit is incidental and necessary. Some of our prizes also benefit native species (for example a bug hotel), enhancing the urban environment for all. This gives us further opportunities to engage with the public and explain the conservation projects in which the zoo is involved.

We also regularly run enclosure work sessions, which help the keepers with the upkeep of enclosures. We also maintain a bee and butterfly friendly garden. This allows us to have contact with the public and provide information about animals present at the zoo and the conservation aims of the zoo. It also enhances the look of the zoo, for a better visitor experience.

At the end of 2023, the charity was not in deficit of funds. We had a total of £2664.74 in the bank at the end of the year, and had pledged a total of £587.05 to ongoing activities. Please see the financial report for further details.

During the charity's financial year, our trustees were as follows:

Bryan Green
Gayle Hanna
Tom Hanna
Laura Jones
Ann Neill
Alison Whann
Helen Curtis (until 24 January 2023)
Michaela Dowey (until 26 April 2023)
Claire Morrison-Donaldson (until 26 April 2023)
Katie Christie (from 26 April 2023)
Noele Christie (from 26 April 2023)
Veronika Dušičková (from 26 April 2023)
Shannon Wilkinson (from 26 April 2023)

All our trustees are elected by the whole membership at an annual general meeting and serve until the next one, which must be held within fifteen months. We have no other way of appointing trustees. The charity trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance in determining what we have done throughout the year.

The charity's governing document is a constitution, dated 2 November 2021.

The *Friends of the Zoo* is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 107494).

Registered address:

Friends of the Zoo
Belfast Zoological Gardens
Antrim Road
NEWTOWNABBEY
BT36 7PN

This report has been approved on 18 September 2024 by the management committee, consisting of:

Katie Christie
Noele Christie
Aimee Coulter
Gayle Hanna
Tom Hanna
Matthew Jamison
Laura Jones
Ann Neill
Emma O'Boyle
Alison Whann

Tom Hanna
18/9/2024

Friends of the Zoo

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107494

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of 'Friends of the Zoo'.

I report on the accounts of the Friends of the Zoo for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by one Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.


My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: KEITH SWAGHERS 

Relevant experience: MANAGER ANTRIM CREDIT UNION LIMITED 1998 - 2022
TREASURER COOKE CENTONARY CHURCH 2012 TO DATE

Address: 63 GLENKEEN
RINDALSTOWN
ANTRIM BT41 3JX

Date: 13-04-2024