



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/1/2023 Period start date To 31/12/2023 Period end date

Charity name: Bumble Hole Conservation Group

Charity registration number: 1054674

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The Object of Bumble Hole Conservation Group (BHCG) as outlined in the Constitution is: For the public benefit, to conserve, develop, and enhance the flora, fauna and heritage of Bumble Hole and Warrens Hall Local Nature Reserves by educating and informing visitors about conservation and the heritage of the reserves, and encouraging involvement in the care of the reserves by being fully inclusive of the local community and reflecting its diversity.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The Visitor Centre, located at Bumble Hole, is the headquarters for BHCG. The premises are provided by Dudley MBC on a long-term lease. Activities on the Reserves are co-ordinated from the Visitor Centre. These include litter picking across the site, landscape management, removing fallen trees, planting wild flowers and bulbs, weeding pathways and steps and mowing towpaths as required. There are established line of communication with DMBC and SMBC where issues beyond the capabilities of the volunteers can be reported. The Visitor Centre is open to the public from 10-2 on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and additionally on Fridays during school holidays – subject to there being sufficient volunteers available to safely open the Centre. Hot drinks and refreshments are sold for fundraising purposes, along with small souvenirs – key rings, canal boats, calendars, Christmas cards etc. There are several items of local history on display and reference books for members of the public to use.

		The current Trustees were appointed in April 2023. Membership stood at 73 and grew to c140 by the end of 2023. The Visitor Centre had its Silver Jubilee which was celebrated by a cake sale and BUGS Ukelele Band performing for the members. The Black Country Boating Festival in September was an exceptional fundraiser for BHCG with sales of crafts, cakes, toys and jigsaws. Charitable events were held in the year for both Prostate Cancer and Breast Cancer Research.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit. Now the Visitor Centre is open on a regular basis, the local community enjoy using the Centre for meeting up. The volunteer base has also grown and there is a strong community feel being generated. Local walking groups, canal boat owners, boat trips and Let's Fish events hosted by Canal and River Trust (CRT) have all benefited from using the facilities in the Visitor Centre.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Without volunteers, BHCG would cease to exist. The team undertake a variety of activities. Outside on the Reserve they litter pick, plant, weed and maintain the site. Once they have received training on power tools, they can use the equipment purchased by the charity for strimming, hedge trimming, mowing etc. When there is a Trustee available to lead activities, these occur daily from 10-12. Inside the Visitor Centre, volunteers make drinks, keep the centre clean, chat with the visitors and provide information on local heritage. All volunteers are provided with equipment needed, along with protective clothing and footwear. The uniform provided includes polo shirts and fleeces.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>BHCG made a loss in first 3 months of 2023 and the Charity would have closed as the incumbent Trustees all resigned at an EGM held on 13 March. 6 new Trustees put their names forward and were elected at the AGM on 1 April. Starting from a zero handover, the new Trustees were grateful for the support of Dudley CVS providing training on the essential duties of a Trustee.</p> <p>In the 9 months since April, the Trustees have met regularly, put systems in place, reviewed risk assessments and improved the facilities within the Visitor Centre including WiFi and card payments. This was a welcome addition for many visitors.</p> <p>Members of BHCG and the general public have benefited from the consistent opening of the Visitor Centre. Plans for future improvements to the Centre and to provide more events such as guided walks and local community group involvement were discussed for implementation in 2024.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At 31 December 2023, the amount of income over expenditure stood at £12,664.81. For the same period in 2022, the figure was £3,102 so the newly appointed Trustees were very pleased that their efforts to engage with the local community were being successful as demonstrated by the strong performance of both sales and increase in membership.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	All funds held within the BHCG Bank Account are classed as reserves. No individual Trustee can sanction any spend in excess of £200 without getting full agreement from all Trustees. There is a strong likelihood that on lease renewal, DMBC will change the lease to a fully-repairing lease and the charity will then be wholly responsible for the building and its maintenance. A level of reserves will be needed to be ringfenced to cover any emergency repairs, for example roof leaks, electrical faults etc.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£61,587.44
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not Applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not Applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by the Members of the BHCG at the AGM. Existing Trustees must resign and put themselves forward for re-election at each AGM. Additional Trustees can be appointed by the Trustees – again, these Trustees must resign at the next AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bumble Hole Conservation Group
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1054674
Charity's principal address	Visitor Centre Windmill End Netherton Dudley DY2 9HU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Brenda Myers	Chair	1/4/23 – 31/12/23	Membership at AGM
2	Jayne Walker	Vice Chair	1/4/23 – 31/12/23	Membership at AGM
3	Angela O’Shea	Treasurer	1/4/23 - 31/12/23	Membership at AGM
4	Kirsty Roberts	Secretary	1/4/23 – 26/7/23	Membership at AGM
5	Ann Horton	Secretary	1/4/23 – 31/12/23	Membership at AGM
6	Tess Phillips-Silk		1/4/23 – 31/12/23	Membership at AGM
7	Maureen Tierney		19/10/23 – 31/12/23	Trustee Appointment
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Ann E Horton</i>	
Full name(s)	Ann Horton	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	23rd October 2024	

Independent Examiners Statement

*In connection with my examination of the books
no matters of concern have come to my attention.
Therefore I believe that the Statement of Accounts
is a true and fair representation
of the finances of Bumble Hole Conservation Group
for the year ending 31st December 2023.*

*Neil Roberts
95a St Peters Road,
Netherton,
Dudley.
DY2 9HN*

8th February 2024



STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st December 2023

Reg. Charity Number 1054674

STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENDITURE

12 Months to 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS

Takings and Items Resold	29806.65
Donations and Memberships	1439.65
Canal & River Trust	190.70
Insurance Refund	621.85
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 32058.85

PAYMENTS

Items for Resale	8427.68
Donations	2452.00
Training	270.60
Utilities	2175.32
Insurance	215.05
Office Equipment and Sundry Expenses	1919.10
Maintenance	479.10
Outdoor Expenses	1610.73
Uniforms	1383.40
Ukulele Band Hire	420.00
Sum Up Card Charges	41.06
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 19394.04

Amount of Income over Expenditure **£ 12664.81**

BALANCE SHEET

at 31st December 2023

Balance at 1st January 2023	48922.63
Plus Income over Expenditure	12664.81
Balance at 31st December 2023	£ 61587.44

BALANCES IN HAND at 31st DECEMBER 2023

Balance at Bank	61327.44
Cash in Hand	260.00
	£ 61587.44

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