Greenwich Wildlife Network
PROTECTING URBAN WILDLIFE
Registered Charity no. 1197507

Greenwich Wildlife Network Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Registered charity number 1197507

Our aim is to give all injured, orphaned, and unwell wild animals in the Greenwich or Bexley area a chance at treatment, rehabilitation, and eventual return to the wild.



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2. Director's Message

Hello and welcome,

Thank you for taking the time to read Greenwich Wildlife Network's 2025/26 Annual Report.

It is difficult to sum up a year that felt, in so many ways, relentless. Once again, the need for our services grew at a pace we could scarcely have imagined. More than 4,000 members of the public contacted us for help, and more than 4,500 animals came through our hands - almost double the number we had been helping only a short time before.





Behind every statistic was an individual animal in need: an injured fox at the roadside, an orphaned baby bird, a trapped pigeon, a sick hedgehog, or a member of the public desperately searching for somebody willing to help. Meeting that need required an extraordinary effort from a relatively small charity and an incredible volunteer-led team, driven largely by passion, compassion and sheer determination.



We began the year having only recently moved into larger premises, at the end of January 2025. We hoped the additional space would give us room to breathe. Instead, we reached capacity remarkably quickly and spent much of the following year operating on the cusp of being completely full. Our growth has brought enormous challenges, but it has also reflected the increasing visibility and reputation of the charity.

More people now know where to find us when they discover an injured animal, witness wildlife in distress or need advice about what to do next. During the year, our Facebook community passed 30,000 followers, while the number of people turning to us for advice and practical assistance continued to rise.

At the same time, our volunteers are becoming increasingly skilled and resourceful rescuers. No two call-outs are quite the same. A rescue may mean wading or kayaking into a lake, climbing a tree or scaling a fence, working at height from a cherry picker alongside the fire brigade, or trying to safely catch a pigeon trapped inside an enormous supermarket. Our team has become adept at thinking creatively, adapting quickly and finding solutions in difficult environments where there is rarely a straightforward answer.



Our “rescue kit” now includes nets of every size and shape, catch poles, swan hooks, graspers, waders, life jackets, boats, carriers ranging from tiny transport boxes to large animal crates, and an increasing range of specialist tools needed for unusual and complex situations. Donations do not only pay for food and veterinary care: they equip our volunteers to physically reach and safely rescue animals who might otherwise be impossible to help.

The scale of that commitment is difficult to overstate. Greenwich Wildlife Network operates from 9am until midnight, 365 days a year. Wildlife emergencies do not stop for weekends, bank holidays or Christmas, and neither does the need for care. We have admitted animals on Christmas Day and continued answering calls and caring for patients while much of the world is taking a break.

That level of availability comes with a very real human cost.



Rescue calls arrive throughout the day and late into the night. Animals need feeding, cleaning, medication and transport every day of the year. Messages need answering, veterinary decisions need making, emergencies need coordinating and, far too often, volunteers must deal with distressing situations in which an animal cannot be saved.

As demand increased, so too did the pressure on the people trying to meet it. Volunteer burnout became an increasingly serious concern, particularly among those carrying the greatest operational responsibility. There is a limit to how much any small group of people can absorb indefinitely, however committed they may be. The emotional strain of repeated suffering and loss, combined with the physical demands of rescue work and the constant pressure of being available for the next emergency, can be immense. One of the continuing challenges for Greenwich Wildlife Network is therefore not simply finding the space and funding to help more animals but building an organisation that is sustainable for the people who make that work possible.



Our campaigning work also took a significant step forward during 2025/26.

For years, our volunteers had witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of catapult attacks on wildlife across south-east London: countless animals left with horrific injuries which, when not fatal, were often life-altering - shattered wings, broken bones, missing eyes and devastating internal trauma. Increasingly, the suffering itself was being filmed and broadcast by those responsible on TikTok and Instagram, turning the maiming and killing of wildlife into a sadistic game of one-upmanship. Meanwhile, despite repeated reports, evidence and identifiable suspects, the response from authorities too often appeared inadequate, with those responsible brazen in their cruelty yet somehow evading apprehension time and again.

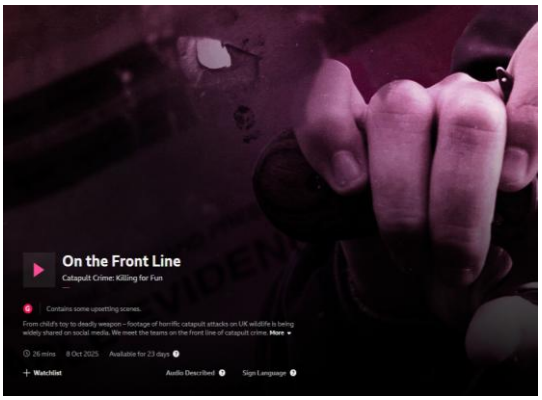
During this year, an issue we had repeatedly raised at local level increasingly became part of a national conversation.





In November 2025, Greenwich Wildlife Network became a founding member of Naturewatch Foundation's Target Crime Not Wildlife coalition, bringing together organisations with direct experience of wildlife crime to campaign for stronger legislation, improved enforcement, more responsible retail and greater recognition of the growing problem of catapult-related cruelty. By March 2026, that message had reached Parliament. Alongside our coalition partners, we attended a parliamentary drop-in event where 45 MPs from across the political spectrum heard directly from our volunteers about the scale and severity of the problem and the difficulties faced by those trying to prevent, investigate and respond to these offences. Catapult attacks on wildlife were also raised through an Early Day Motion in Parliament during the same period.

Most importantly, we began to see tangible change. Gumtree prohibited the sale of catapults and slingshots through its platform, while action was also taken against social media accounts and content glorifying catapult cruelty. We became involved in wider collaborative efforts to tackle these offences, including Operation Lakeshot, the national police-led initiative focused on education, prevention, detection and justice.



The campaign also received considerable national media attention, including BBC coverage and the BBC documentary *On the Front Line: Catapult Crime - Killing for Fun*. For a small local wildlife charity, seeing experiences documented by our own volunteers carried from parks and rescue calls in south-east London to national audiences and Parliament was an extraordinary development.

Increasingly, members of the public who feel frustrated and disillusioned by the lack of effective action against wildlife crime are turning to us with what they are witnessing. People who have watched their local green spaces become places where animals are deliberately targeted are sending us photographs, videos, reports and evidence because they want something to change. That brings with it another considerable responsibility: to make sure those experiences are documented, heard and used to push for better protection.



2025/26 also brought several other moments that we were particularly proud of.



Greenwich Wildlife Network was nominated for a BBC Make a Difference Award, recognising the extraordinary contribution made by our volunteers and supporters.

We were also honoured to welcome our first patron, Philip Wollen, whose decades of outspoken advocacy for animal rights and his commitment to challenging the exploitation and suffering of animals closely reflect the values at the heart of our work.

That same month, we joined forces with Protect the Wild to oppose a proposed pigeon cull at the Academy development in Woolwich. More than 7,000 people signed the campaign within just 48 hours, helping persuade those responsible to explore humane deterrence rather than lethal control. It was an important reminder of what can happen when organisations and communities come together and refuse to accept that killing wildlife is the only answer.



None of this work would have been possible without the people and organisations who stood behind us. We are particularly grateful to SMAG Art Ltd in Blackheath and the McCrone Family Charitable Trust for their continued support, as well as to our patron Philip Wollen for his generosity. We are also extremely grateful to the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund, funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Our project was selected from around 150 applications, providing funding towards our first dedicated charity vehicle - something that will transform our ability to transport animals, equipment and supplies across the area.



We are enormously proud of what was achieved in 2025/26, particularly because so much of it was achieved under immense pressure.



To every person who transported an animal to safety, answered a member of the public's plea for help, hopped in a river or climbed a ladder to reach an animal in need, cleaned a cage, donated, fundraised, fostered, shared our work, supported a campaign or simply encouraged us to keep going: thank you. Greenwich Wildlife Network exists because people continue to care enough to make it exist, despite the obstacles thrown our way year after year.

It is also important to recognise that so much of our work is not about interfering with nature, but about trying to undo the harm caused by people, and by the ways in which we have reshaped once-natural habitats around our own convenience. We treat water birds with fishing hooks embedded in their beaks and line wrapped around their bodies; pigeons whose feet have been slowly constricted by discarded string and human hair; animals trapped in litter, netting, glue traps and buildings; wildlife injured on our roads or attacked by domestic cats and dogs; birds trapped inside supermarkets and warehouses; nests destroyed or disturbed by building work and tree cutting; animals contaminated by oil and other pollutants, and wildlife poisoned through the ingestion of toxic substances.



The list is almost endless. Wildlife rehabilitation is sometimes dismissed as sentimental, or as an attempt to intervene in the animal kingdom and soften what can undoubtedly be a brutal natural world, but there is very little natural about a duck starving because its beak is tied together with fishing line, a bird frantically trying to escape anti-bird netting, or a fox lying injured beside a road. And try as we might, we cannot always undo that damage. Rescue and rehabilitation can save individual lives, relieve suffering and return animals to the wild, but at times it can feel like trying to bail out a sinking ship with a spoon. The pressures facing wildlife extend far beyond the animals who reach our doors: habitat loss, pollution, climate change, persecution and collapsing biodiversity are driving losses on a scale no rescue organisation could ever hope to counter alone. We cannot rescue our way out of a global environmental crisis. But we can alleviate suffering where we find it, save the lives that can be saved, and use what we witness every day to speak up for the animals whose injuries so often tell a much bigger story.

Yet, as this reporting period drew to a close, we were once again reminded how fragile the foundations beneath a growing rescue organisation can be. We have recently learned that our tenancy at the unit we depend upon will come to an end, throwing the charity's immediate future into uncertainty once again. After a year in which demand had already stretched our space, finances and volunteers to their limits, the prospect of another move is daunting. But it also forces us to confront a reality that had become increasingly clear: Greenwich Wildlife Network has outgrown the infrastructure on which it is relying. As we enter the new financial year, our priority is therefore not simply to find somewhere else to go, but to secure a future for the charity capable of meeting the scale of need we are now seeing. What initially felt like another crisis may also carry the possibility of something more hopeful - the opportunity to build greater capacity, improve the way we care for animals and create a more sustainable foundation for the years ahead.

Because even in the face of problems of such overwhelming, even unfathomable scale, every individual life still matters.



That so many individual animals now depend on our charity being there to spare them from suffering, and to enable them to live as happily and naturally as possible in an increasingly unnatural world, is precisely why building a stable, sustainable foundation for our work is so crucial. Goodwill and determination alone cannot carry an ever-growing service indefinitely. As demand for our help continues to rise, the infrastructure around that work must grow with it. We need secure premises for the long term, appropriate equipment and facilities for the extraordinary range of species and situations we encounter, reliable funding, stronger systems and a larger, well-supported volunteer team if we are to continue providing the standard of care our wildlife deserves without exhausting the people who have already given so much.

For every animal whose life may one day depend on us being there, we have to make sure that we are. For them, we keep going - and we hope you will continue to stand with us.

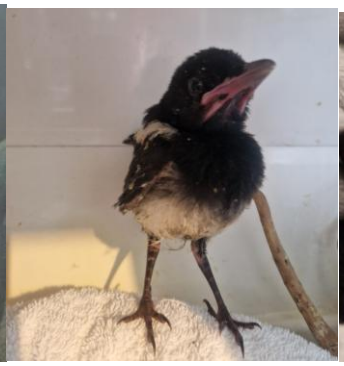
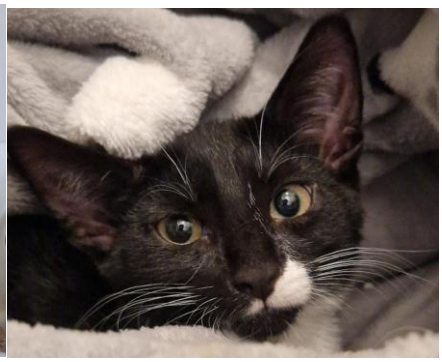
With thanks,

Rae Gellel
Director
On behalf of the volunteers at Greenwich Wildlife Network

3. About Us

Created and led by Founder Rae Gellel and supported by a small but active group of volunteers, the Greenwich Wildlife Network (GWN) has been in existence as a community group since 2018. Incorporated in 2022 and covering the areas of Greenwich and Bexley in South-East London, the charity's aim is to rescue, rehabilitate and release a wide variety of wildlife, including foxes, water birds, songbirds, birds of prey, pigeons and rodents.

On occasion, our work also extends to domestic and companion animals. We may step in where an organisation specialising in that species is unable to assist, provide emergency help as an intermediary until an appropriate rescue can take over, or attend situations requiring specialist rescue equipment or skills that domestic animal organisations may not routinely have available. This has included rescuing cats stuck in trees; rabbits, ferrets and cats abandoned in public places and in immediate danger; helping to reunite lost dogs with their owners; recovering escaped parrots found flying outdoors; freeing rabbits and kittens trapped inside car engines; and even assisting with an escaped peacock.

The charity operates all year round, though the greatest proportion of our work involves caring for orphaned animals during the spring and summer.

Our mission is to give injured, orphaned, and unwell wild animals in the Greenwich or Bexley area a chance at treatment, rehabilitation, and eventual return to the wild. Beyond individual rescues, we want our work to bring people together around a shared sense of responsibility for the animals living alongside us, creating a community in which wildlife is better understood, valued and protected.

Our vision is for a stable, resilient and community-powered wildlife rescue service when animals and people need it most. We want to provide consistently high standards of care rooted in kindness, compassion and evidence-based rehabilitation; return as many animals as possible to healthy lives in the wild; and help people understand how to coexist more peacefully with urban wildlife.

To do this, GWN collaborates with a network of wildlife rescue centres outside of London for rehabilitation and treatment. These include South Essex Wildlife Hospital, The Fox Project and The Swan Sanctuary amongst others. Working in conjunction with these organisations, GWN acts as an intermediary between the public and rescue centres which are outside of London, whose help would not be typically sought by London residents due to considerable geographical distance.

It allows the organisation to help many more animals, and also animals with complex veterinary needs that we do not yet have the resources to address.



With few rescue services available across Greater London, our support is now increasingly being called upon from further afield, and where resources allow, we step in to accommodate these urgent requests.

In the quieter months, GWN also fulfils its educational purpose around animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals. This can take the shape of visits to schools and care homes, training days open to the public, litter picking days, as well as taking a leadership role in initiatives such as a campaign tackling the rise of catapult attacks on wildlife or working with property development companies to inform the way new buildings are being designed and constructed.



GWN is entirely reliant on a small group of c. 25-30 volunteers who tirelessly respond to public requests for rescues and transport, as well as those who undertake the feeding and cleaning of animals during rehabilitation before they can be released.









4. Our Impact This Year

This year, our 30 volunteers worked tirelessly to save lives:



We answered over 4,000 calls for help from members of the community.



We rescued over 4,500 animals.



Our Facebook community now exceeds 30,000 people.



Together, our volunteers gave an estimated 45,000 hours of their time.



Our Anti-Catapult campaign supported by BBC London has been far-reaching, with GWN being invited to the Parliament to speak to MP's in March 2026.

"*In September of 2025, my 3-year-old son and I were walking home from the library when we heard a thud behind us. We turned around to find a young pigeon sitting on the ground. He was so incredibly friendly. We waited to see if he would fly away, but he didn't, even sitting on my hand and letting my son stroke him.*

I carried him home with us and started searching online for advice. I contacted one rescue, who advised me to "leave him" as his parents would find him and he would eventually fly off. This didn't seem right, so I continued to search online for help and came across GWN.

Rae identified him as a stock dove and we dropped him off him to her. At the time, I had no idea how busy GWN were or how much work they were doing behind the scenes. Now, I realise just how hard it must be to give updates, however Rae messaged me a few days later with an update to say that he was being tube-fed and getting stronger. We were so happy to hear that the little bird we had found (named David!) was being cared for.

What I didn't realise at the time was that contacting GWN would lead to something much bigger for us. Through following their page, I discovered F4, which then led me to LPSR. Since then, I have attended many string foot sessions and have even started catching and treating string foot pigeons myself, sometimes with my son alongside me.

GWN didn't just help one vulnerable bird that day but introduced us to a whole community of people who care deeply about animals. It has really highlighted how much one person can help when given the right support and knowledge.

I am so grateful that we found GWN that day. Their work is truly wonderful, and I feel incredibly lucky that a chance encounter with one little bird led us to become much more involved in helping ourselves."

Testimony From A Member Of The GWN Community

5. Activities

The continued rise in popularity of GWN reflected by the 50% increase in Facebook followers in the last year (30,000 and increasing by 1,000 each month), and fuelled by the increased media attention, resulted in a 53% increase in the number of animals rescued on the previous year. The majority of requests for help are directed through the charity's Facebook group, with a smaller number coming via referrals from other organisations such as local veterinary practices. GWN's growing popularity has also resulted in an increase in calls outside of its catchment area, adding pressure on the volunteer team.

How we support our community

In shaping our objectives for the period and planning our activities, trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance public benefit: running a charity (PB2). During the year, we focused on the following activities:

Animal Rescue

GWN has continued to be extremely busy and far busier than the previous year. The charity operates all year round, though the greatest proportion of our work involves caring for orphaned animals in the spring and summer. The number of rescues for the reporting year was 4,014 (vs 2,545 in 2024/25). As many rescues involve more than one animal (e.g. ducks and ducklings nested in unsuitable locations), the total number of rescued animals was 4,581 (vs 2,999 in 2024/25), an increase of 53%.



This included 2,932 birds, of which the humble pigeon was the majority, but also coots, crows, canaries, ducks, geese, gulls, jays, magpies, moorhens, raptors, parakeets, songbirds, starlings, pheasants, herons, swans, woodpeckers and owls. Volunteers also rescued badgers, bats, foxes, frogs, hedgehogs, snakes and a variety of rodents.

In July 2025, Greenwich Wildlife Network reached an important milestone when we moved our first ever group of fox cubs to a soft-release site, marking the first time we had been able to see orphaned cubs through the full journey from admission to release ourselves. In previous years, young foxes had been transferred to larger wildlife centres for the final stages of their rehabilitation, but Nori, Ori, Bifur and Bombur remained in our care from the time they arrived as small orphans until they were ready to begin rewilding. After months of care, and considerable work to establish a suitable release pen and site, the four cubs were moved to several acres of private woodland where human contact could be withdrawn and they could develop the independence and natural behaviours needed for life in the wild. Their eventual release represented a significant step forward in GWN's rehabilitation capacity and in our ability to provide continuity of care from rescue through to return to the wild.





A number of domestic animals were also rescued, including 24 cats. With many domestic animal rescue organisations operating at full capacity and maintaining waiting lists, GWN has stepped in to provide vital assistance in cases where cats and other animals might otherwise have gone without help. We have implemented a framework to properly assess and vet adopters for suitability. We managed to secure placements allowing us to transfer some cats to other rescues.

Finding suitable long-term homes for non-releasable pigeons has continued to prove difficult, with disabled birds sometimes remaining in the rescue for extended periods and contributing to pressure on available space. Trustees have therefore continued to identify suitable partners and private residents able to provide additional long-term aviary accommodation.



Pigeons are particularly suited to long-term captive care because of their history of domestication and their longstanding relationship with people. Our care also includes ex-racing pigeons, domestic and fancy breeds, and many white domestic pigeons or ‘doves’ released as part of weddings, funerals and other ceremonies. Some birds may be non-releasable because of a permanent impairment while still being able to eat, preen, socialise, form pair bonds, move around comfortably and engage in normal pigeon behaviour. Decisions about long-term placement are therefore made individually, with each bird’s comfort, mobility, independence and overall quality of life remaining the priority.

The increased all-year round demand on GWN rescue services means that after only one year moving into larger premises, the new unit is now almost at capacity. There has only been one day in the last 18 months with no animal admitted to us. Trustees are having on-going conversations with Bexley and Greenwich councils in order to identify suitable larger premises.



Advocacy & Campaigning

Anti-catapult campaign: There have been many incidents of wildlife being catapulted in local parks, mainly by young males aged 8-18. Waterbirds have been killed, injured, and needed rescue from Priory Gardens, The Tarn at Mottingham and Southmere Lake in Thamesmead. There are reports from Swanley Park, Danson Park in Bexley, Footscray Meadows in Sidcup, Birchmere Lake in Thamesmead, and multiple other green spaces and waterways in the boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich. In 2024, GWN ramped up its campaign to highlight the problem and try to educate young people that this is not acceptable. The campaign gathered momentum with GWN organising a demonstration in Orpington on 6 April 2025, which was covered by BBC London News.



They also filmed for a short BBC documentary which aired in September 2025 and is available on i-player. This led to the Director being invited to the Parliament to speak to MP's in March 2026, an event organised by Naturewatch Foundation, where they met 50 MP's, including the MP's for Sidcup, Dartford and Thamesmead. MP Ruth Jones has started an early day motion to raise the issue in Parliament (20 MP's have signed so far); the aim being to tag onto the current weapon legislation and recognise catapults as a weapon. A meeting with Amazon is being arranged to limit the sales of catapult online to 18+, with the BBC filming the petition being delivered to Amazon offices. As a result a number of councils have now introduced Public Space Protection Order, banning the use of catapult in public spaces. The campaign led to a petition exceeding 40,000 signatures in April 2026, as well as a series of meeting with the council and the Met Police. Some arrests have also been made.

In March 2026, we joined forces with Protect the Wild to oppose a proposed pigeon cull at the Academy development in Woolwich. Rather than accepting lethal control as the default response to conflicts with urban wildlife, we called for humane, non-lethal alternatives to be properly considered.



The response from the public was extraordinary: more than 7,000 people signed the campaign within just 48 hours. The proposed cull was subsequently cancelled, with those responsible instead agreeing to explore humane deterrence measures. It was an important reminder of what can be achieved when wildlife organisations and local communities come together, and when people are prepared to challenge the assumption that killing wildlife is the simplest or most appropriate solution.

Another campaign now beginning to take shape is our work around anti-bird netting. Poorly installed, damaged or inadequately maintained netting can pose a serious welfare risk to birds, trapping them behind or within the mesh, preventing access to established nesting sites, or leaving birds entangled and unable to escape. In some cases, birds can remain trapped for prolonged periods without food or water, while rescuers face significant difficulties reaching them safely.

GWN has already successfully lobbied a number of businesses and organisations to remove, repair or alter problematic netting, including at the O2 Arena in Greenwich. Until now, much of this work has taken place on a case-by-case basis in response to individual incidents. Going forward, we intend to develop this into a more targeted campaign, raising awareness of the risks associated with poorly designed and maintained netting, encouraging organisations to adopt safer alternatives and better maintenance practices, and challenging installations where birds are repeatedly being put at risk.

Another milestone in the life of our young charity this year was the appointment of its first-ever patron, Australian activist and philanthropist Philip Wollen. A former Vice President of Citibank, Wollen left the world of global finance to dedicate his life to advancing human and animal rights. Over the past two decades, he has become one of the most prominent global advocates for the protection of animals and the extension of justice and compassion across species. His work has been recognised with numerous honours, including the Order of Australia Medal, Australian of the Year (Victoria), the Albert Schweitzer Award, the Peter Singer Prize and Medal, and an Honorary Fellowship from the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Whether addressing the exploitation of animals for food, hunting, experimentation or entertainment, Wollen has consistently spoken out against cruelty in all its forms. His advocacy is rooted in the belief that empathy and justice must extend to all beings, regardless of species - a principle that lies at the heart of Greenwich Wildlife Network's mission.



Public engagement and educational activities

In addition to wildlife rescue, which is the main focus of the charity and occupies the majority of the time from April to October, volunteers are also involved with a number of community-based activities. Whilst rescuing animals and wildlife is at the core of what the charity does, it's through educating the public that we will reduce the prevalence of animals becoming unwell, injured or distressed due to human negligence.

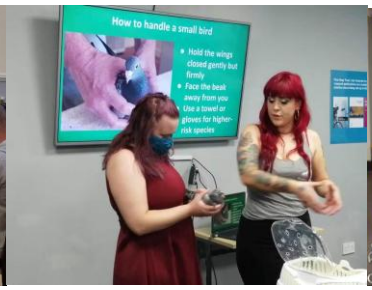


Community outreach is therefore crucial in terms of the wider goals of preventing suffering to animals. In this financial year, GWN participated in the following community activities:

- As in previous years, stalls were held at the Plumstead Make Merry in June and the Dockyard festival in Woolwich in August.
- GWN volunteers spoke at the Blackheath Prep school assembly in June 2025, at the end of the school's fundraising campaign.
- A volunteer social was held at Shrewsbury House in August to thank them for their support, which had a good turn-out and gave volunteers the opportunity to meet each other.

- Training was completed for people who were interested in becoming volunteers. We continue to hold sessions to train volunteers for the unit and for transport and rescue.
- A Meet & Mingle event was organised on 21 October to encourage new volunteers.
- On 5 December, a fundraising jazz concert took place in Mycenae House which generated a large amount of donations.
- On 24 February a talk with Friends of Danson Park took place, highlighting our End Catapult Crime Campaign.







Media engagement

Media interest in Greenwich Wildlife Network increased significantly during 2025/26, reflecting both the growth of the charity and the increasing public attention around wildlife crime and our rescue work.

- **April 2025 – BBC News:** The anti-catapult campaign continued to receive national attention, with BBC News reporting on calls for stronger laws around catapult use against wildlife.
  https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyw4n3ez9eo.amp
- **May 2025 – Mirror:** Further coverage highlighted the growing number of catapult attacks on wildlife and the impact these incidents were having on animals across the UK.
  https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/wildlife-increasingly-targeted-catapults-unspeakably-35098320
- **May 2025 – News Shopper:** Coverage also reported on Kent Police action in response to catapult use against wildlife.
  https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/25364951.kent-police-crackdown-catapult-use-wildlife
- **June 2025 – Harrow Online:** GWN's rescue work was featured following the rescue of a pigeon trapped inside a Morrisons supermarket for more than two weeks.
  https://harrowonline.org/2025/06/11/pigeon-reportedly-trapped-inside-morrisons-harrow-for-over-two-weeks/
- **August 2025 – MyLondon:** GWN was featured in a report on the scale and severity of catapult attacks in south London, including serious injuries to waterfowl.
  https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/south-london-wildlife-tortured-catapult-32290278
- **September 2025 – SE Nine magazine:** A feature on the work of Greenwich Wildlife Network was published in SE Nine's September edition.
  https://indd.adobe.com/view/ca67c0d8-fd0d-473d-b258-b748a8670e7b
- **October 2025 – BBC London News:** On 8 October, the anti-catapult campaign was featured across BBC London's breakfast, 6pm and 10pm television news programmes.
- **October 2025 – BBC iPlayer documentary:** The BBC documentary On the Front Line: Catapult Crime – Killing for Fun was released on iPlayer, helping bring national attention to catapult-related wildlife crime.
  https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002k6mz/on-the-front-line-catapult-crime-killing-for-fun
- **October 2025 – BBC Make a Difference Awards:** GWN reached the final of the BBC Make a Difference Awards. Rae Gellel and Lisa Baden were interviewed by BBC Radio London in the run-up to the event, and the nomination was also covered by News Shopper.
  https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/25531542.greenwich-wildlife-network-makes-finals-bbc-awards/

- **October 2025 – Maritime Radio:** Rae Gellel and Lisa Baden were interviewed on Maritime Radio on 22 October to discuss the continuing anti-catapult campaign and the need for stronger action.
- **October 2025 – The Independent:** The national press also reported on calls for stronger controls on catapult sales. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/catapults-animals-wildlife-kent-police-b2841545.html
- **October 2025 – Daily Mail:** Further national coverage focused on repeated catapult attacks against wildlife in south-east London. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15476821/Gangs-killing-wildlife-London-borough-catapult.html
- **October 2025 – News Shopper:** A first-person feature highlighted the impact of repeated catapult incidents on GWN volunteers and the frequency with which rescuers were encountering injured and dead animals. https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/25585865.greenwich-wildlife-network-calls-catapult-crackdown/
- **October 2025 – BBC News:** BBC News also covered the growing national campaign, including a petition calling for action on catapult crime reaching 10,000 signatures. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c797q544vvvo
- **November 2025 – The Cool Down:** GWN's rescue work was featured internationally by environmental publication The Cool Down, following a fox rescue involving plastic waste. https://www.thecooldown.com/outdoors/plastic-bag-fox-wildlife-hospital-litter/
- **February 2026 – Daily Mail:** A major feature highlighted a series of catapult attacks on wildlife in south-east London and the wider problem of animals being deliberately targeted. https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-15510357/Nearly-dozen-wild-animals-including-red-listed-birds-tortured-killed-using-catapults-leafy-London-borough-hit-string-similar-attacks.html
- **February 2026 – South East Londoner:** The charity was also featured following public debate around one of GWN's fundraising appeals. https://www.selondoner.co.uk/news/25022026-greenwich-charity-responds-to-backlash-over-fundraising-appeal-for-chickens-surgery
- **March 2026 – South East Londoner:** Media coverage followed Gumtree's decision to prohibit the sale of catapults and slingshots on its platform, a significant development within the wider campaign. https://www.selondoner.co.uk/news/05032026-gumtree-bans-sale-of-catapults-used-to-terrorise-london-wildlife
- **March 2026 – Daily Mail:** Further national reporting covered fatal catapult
- **October 2025 - Maritime Radio:** Rae and Lisa did another interview on Maritime Radio to reinvigorate the anti-catapult campaign.



Our Volunteers

Powered entirely by people

Greenwich Wildlife Network is run entirely by volunteers. Every call from the public and every animal rescued is made possible by people freely giving their time and skills. Trustees have been impressed by the on-going commitment and professionalism of the volunteer team as training was delivered and rotas were implemented to look after the animals 365 days a year. This has enabled the charity to spread the cleaning, feeding and caring of the animals across a greater number of volunteers. This in turn has meant that the Director and the most experienced rehabilitators have been able to focus on the more critical cases and complex rescues.

Volunteers attend the unit daily and fulfil the role of cleaning and checking on the animals, with the daily routine taking approximately 4 hours. As the number of areas to coordinate is growing, GWN gives the more experienced volunteers the opportunity to become coordinators for the unit and soft release aviaries. All this could not be done without the support of a core team of 20-30 dedicated volunteers.







6. Financial Summary

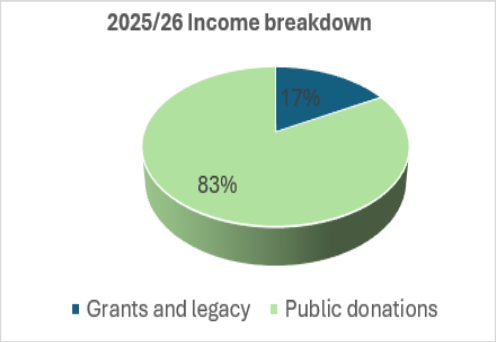
As a volunteer-run charity, we keep our costs low so that the majority of our funds go directly toward our work. In 2025/26, the charity has continued to rely entirely on donations to cover its day-to-day operational costs. The key aim is to attract sufficient funding to enable the charity to continue to expand its operation in response to growing demand and enable the extension of our aviaries. A significant amount (14%) was also spent on infrastructure and equipment, such as purchasing cages for the new premises and maintaining aviaries. The charity also receives in-kind donations through the charity's Amazon wish list.

All reserves are carried forward to the next year, which at the end of 2025/26 were £40K. The charity aims to hold a buffer equal to 6 months of key expenditure. Reserves have increased in the last year thanks to public donations and it was not necessary to dip into existing reserves.

Fundraising was successful throughout the season, matching the increase in our operational expenditure. The charity needs to continue to be inventive to raise funds and we are hopeful to develop applications to secure larger grant as the charity continues to grow. A major success was to secure a grant of £15K from the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund to replace the charity's main transport vehicle; this will come into the next financial year.

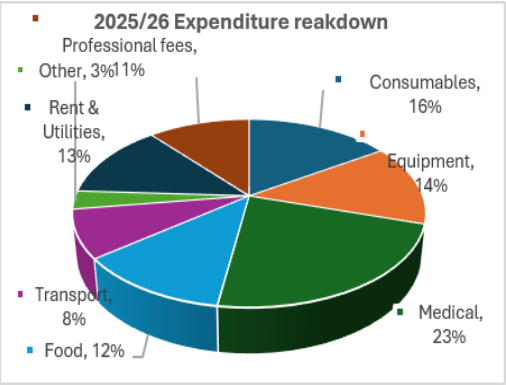
Income

Grants and legacy	£18,633
Other	£100
Public donations	£91,804
Total	**£110,537**



Expenditure

Consumables	£16,270
General equipment	£14,395
Medical	£23,342
Food	£12,417
Transport	£8,525
Other	£3,250
Rent & Utilities	£13,421
Professional fees	£11,454
Total	**£103,073**



7. Thanks & Acknowledgements



Thank you to everyone who supported us this year - our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members. Every contribution, no matter the size, helped us continue our work. We are particularly grateful to SMAG Art Ltd in Blackheath and the McCrone Family Charitable Trust for their on-going support, as well as all of those who have voted for GWN in each round of the Benefact Group Awards. GWN Trustees also extend their thanks to the Royal Borough of Greenwich for selecting our charity as one of the recipients of the 2025 Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund.

8. Governance & Management

GWN (Registration 1197507) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution, whose only voting members are its charity Trustees.

In August 2025 Darren McEvilly stepped down as Chair and Francesca McEvilly was elected as new Chair by the Board of Trustees. We would like to thank Darren for his contribution to the charity in its formative years and wish him the best for the future. We were also delighted to welcome Nicky Wilson, a trusted and reliable volunteer, as new Trustee of GWN in January 2026. Karine Lepeuple remained on the Board as Treasurer and Gowri Jeevaratnam was re-elected in January 2026.

Trustees are responsible for setting policies and guidelines. Any potential new Trustees are advised to read “The Essential Trustee” as provided by the Charity Commission. Further, Trustees have created an information pack including constitution, minutes of recent Trustee meetings and information relevant to the running of the charity and strategic objectives. New Trustees are appointed by a majority vote of the current Trustees.

The GWN Founder Rae Gellel remains as Director, supported by Head Volunteer Lisa Baden. She runs a team of 20-30 volunteers and makes the day-to-day operational decisions. Decisions are communicated to volunteers via private social media groups. New volunteers are trained on best practices to rescue animals in a variety of circumstances during training days regularly organised by the Director and Trustees. The rehabilitation of animals is only carried out by a small number of experienced volunteers, and mostly by the Director herself. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees and volunteers include risk assessments, induction days and online training videos, avian flu precautions and infection risk guidelines.

GWN collaborates with a network of wildlife rescue centres outside of London, including South Essex Wildlife Hospital, The Fox Project and The Swan Sanctuary. GWN acts as an intermediary between the public and rescue centres which are outside of London, whose help would not be typically sought by London residents due to considerable geographical distance. It allows the organisation to help many more animals, and also animals with complex veterinary needs that we do not yet have the resources to address.



9. Looking Ahead

As we enter the new financial year, the future of the charity is once again thrown into uncertainty as we are informed that our tenancy for our rented unit is to be terminated. You can see our appeal which was featured on BBC London evening News on 23 May 2026: https://www.facebook.com/reel/1337187851668373

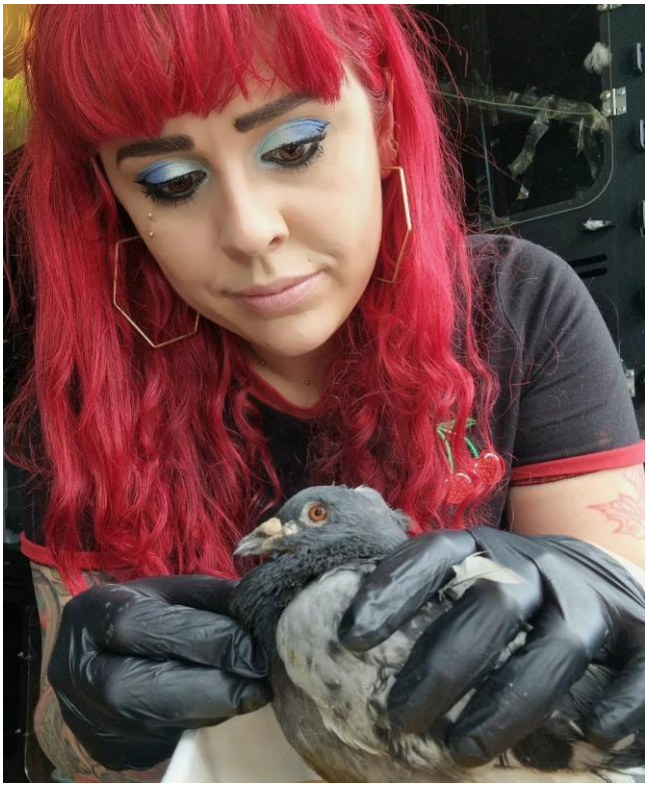


Trustees have been humbled by the reaction from the public to this news. The target of £20,000 was reached in a couple of weeks, testifying to the strength of local support towards our charity. The Trustees' focus will be to identify and secure suitable premises in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition for the animals currently in our care. Whilst this is the biggest crisis that our young charity has experienced to date, Trustees are hopeful that larger long-term premises can be found, to enable us to continue to expand on our vital work. We're excited about what's next and would love for you to be part of it.



10. Contact Information

- **Website:** https://www.greenwichwildlifenetwork.org
- **Email:** greenwichwildlifenetwork@gmail.com
- **Social media:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/greenwichwildlifenetwork
- **Registered Address:** 2 Grange Crescent, London SE28 8EX



11. Declaration

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

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	Karine Lepeuple
Position	Treasurer
Date	7/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK	1197507

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 4/1/2025	To	Period end date 3/31/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Public donations	91,804	-	-	91,804	67,091
Grants and legacies	18,633	-	-	18,633	18,042
Other	100	-	-	100	171
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	110,537	-	-	110,537	85,304
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	110,537	-	-	110,537	85,304
A3 Payments					
Consumables	16,270	-	-	16,270	12,485
General equipment	14,395	-	-	14,395	6,473
Medical	23,342	-	-	23,342	12,446
Food	12,417	-	-	12,417	9,851
Transport	8,525	-	-	8,525	5,428
Rent & Utilities	13,421	-	-	13,421	9,157
Professional fees	11,454	-	-	11,454	5,250
Other	3,249	-	-	3,249	6,778
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	103,073	-	-	103,073	67,868
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	103,073	-	-	103,073	67,868
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,464	-	-	7,464	17,436
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	33,254	-	-	33,254	15,818
Cash funds this year end	40,718	-	-	40,718	33,254

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Bank	40,324	-	
	Cash	394	-	
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	40,718	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: GREENWICH WILDLIFE NETWORK

On accounts for the year ended: 31 MARCH 2026

Charity no (if any): 1197507

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended .

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or

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 accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 1/6/2026

Name: KATHRYN MARGARET FEARN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT

Address: 4C COLLEGE PLACE
BRIGHTON
BN2 1HN

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A