

PENSFORD FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST LTD

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registration Number

6007255 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number

1118800

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and members

Chair Sarah Atkins*

Company Secretary Felice Oxborrow*

Treasurer Harriet Enthoven*

Trustees/Directors Diana Dunrossil

Mary Smith

Richard Ferriday

Sonia Oussedik

* Also Directors/Trustees

Committee member Bob Gingell

Registered office 29 Chelwood Gardens

Kew,

TW9 4JG

Website www.pensfordfield.co.uk

Company registration number 6007255 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1118800

Bankers Barclays Bank

8 George Street

Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JU

Introduction

Pensford Field Environmental Trust became a company limited by guarantee on November 23rd, 2006 and was registered as a charity on April 13th, 2007. We are governed by Articles of Association and a Memorandum of Association. Our Trustees are also Directors of the limited company. Typically, our Trustees/Directors and other members of the committee meet on a regular basis throughout the year. This is our sixteenth Annual Report.

The Trust exists to manage the area known as Pensford Field, bordered by Nylands, Pensford and Atwood Avenues and North Road, in Kew, Surrey. The Field belongs to the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (LBRUT) and is leased for a nominal rent from LBRUT in exchange for fulfilment of the agreed Management Plan: the last update of this plan was produced in 2022 and the next update is now close to completion. The lease was signed on 14th March 2007 and is for a period of 21 years, expiring in March 2028. An updated Vision Plan was submitted to the Council in early 2017. We maintain a website at: www.pensfordfield.co.uk

Pensford Field became a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) in March 2010 and was reinspected for the purposes of this designation in July 2021. This designation increases the potential of the Field for use by teaching bodies for conservation research and learning. We are eager for students to be able to use the Field for projects relevant to their studies and welcome applications from students of all ages and at all levels of learning.

2. Objectives

The objectives as stated in the 2022 Management Plan are:

- To promote nature conservation and enhance the biodiversity value of Pensford Field for future generations through active and sustainable management.
- To encourage environmental education through local school and community involvement by raising awareness of the site as a community wildlife and nature reserve.

This report describes the actions taken to meet these objectives during our sixteenth full year of operation and our plans for the forthcoming year. The provision of public benefit is at the core of all the activities undertaken by the trustees of Pensford Field Environmental Trust.

3. Activities and achievements

- a. *Promoting nature conservation and enhancing the biodiversity value of Pensford Field for future generations through active and sustainable management*

All work is carried out by committee members, supported by volunteers. Our e-mail list numbers around 450 and we send out e-mail alerts when a work day is planned. During this year, the drawing up of the task list for each of the working parties was carried out by Bob Gingell. The working parties are usually comprised of a few regulars supplemented by more occasional volunteers. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, the field remained in reasonably good order during 2022/23.

Felled wood was repurposed for wildlife habitats and the chippings from these and the hedges were also used to improve the paths. We are keeping a watchful eye for ash die-back but have recently been advised by a representative of Kew Gardens that our ash trees appear to be in good health.

This year has seen several improvements to the Field, which include the replacement of the gate (with thanks to Kew Fete); the planting of an alder; the commencement of the re-shaping of the Willow circle; and the continued development of a wild-flower meadow.

The first butterfly transect of the Field was made in 2003 and this has largely been repeated annually since then. In the report dated October 2018, the **butterfly survey** completed by Ian Cunningham reported on sighting of such species as the Essex Skipper, Brimstone, Common Blue and Green Veined White. Surveys over the years have reported sightings of at least 16 species of butterfly. Our thanks go to Ian for both his observations and butterfly-oriented planting recommendations. A child-friendly guide Butterflies in the Field is now available to visitors to assist with sightings and can be found on our website.

The Field is home to two sets of **beehives**. Whilst precautions obviously have to be taken around the hives, they serve a useful educational purpose for visiting school parties, as well as providing pollinators for our orchard and those producing fruit and vegetables locally. 2022 was a good year for honey production and the honey sold well at the Friends' tea. In addition to the excellent supply of honey produced, our Apple, Plum, Quince and Medlar trees also bear fruit for harvesting.

2022 saw a new focus on bat activity in the Field. Thanks go to Habitats & Heritage, who found by monitoring that 6 species of bat inhabit the Field and then placed 2 bat boxes near the pond. This means the Field is a significant site for bats in the London Borough of Richmond. The badger activity in the Field was also viewed using a night-vision camera provided by Habitats and Heritage.

Hannah Fletcher completed a reptile survey in 2019 but did not find any evidence of the presence of slow worm, common lizard, grass snake or adder. Suitable habitats will continue to be maintained going forward.

The continued focus on both the management and presentation of the Field was recognised during the year by the awarding of a Green Flag and a London in Bloom certificate.

Wildlife observed: regular visitors include pipistrelle bats, stag beetles, butterflies, bumble bees, foxes, and badgers; the pond is a breeding-ground for frogs, newts, and toads; and a large variety of birds ranging from herons to green woodpeckers and smaller have also been sighted.

Looking after the **Studio**, generously donated by local residents Ian Sands and Geraldine Cox in 2007, is now one of our regular management tasks. It is a crucial factor in enabling local schools and community groups to use the Field, because of its toilet facilities and because it allows visits to proceed even if the weather is inclement. Taking account of both a Health & Safety audit and an electrical-appliances check during the year, improvement to both the inside and the outside of the Studio has continued to take place. Thanks are particularly due to Dose of Nature for their part in the improvements, that has included the purchase of new storage units and some of the new chairs. We also bought a new marquee for events with a 50% contribution from Dose of Nature.

Thanks are due to Darika Ahrens for the development of a new website in 2022 and to John Blunden for his work in maintaining the old website; managing our email communications; and supporting Sarah in updating the new website. We have also increased our social media presence during the year with comms on both Facebook and Instagram (with thanks to Sonia and Sarah).

Part of the active management of the field is to **raise and manage funds** for its maintenance. This last year commenced the return to our pre-pandemic timetable of events. The details of these events are provided in the following paragraphs. We remain committed to holding events that are often educational; serve to promote awareness of the field; and are in keeping with the remit of the Trust.

Public Liability Insurance continues to pose a major funding challenge, despite having moved to a more competitive supplier. The cost of this, plus buildings insurance for the studio, was £430 this year.

On the theme of governance, we would like to thank Donna McDonald for her ongoing help and support.

b. Encouraging environmental education through local school and community involvement by raising awareness of the site as a community wildlife and nature reserve.

As already mentioned, the use of the Field transitioned over the course of the year as the country moved out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, when government rules permitted, the Field was opened for visiting by individuals and small groups. To balance the natural needs of the Field with the now-well-recognised positive benefit to people of green spaces, visitors have been encouraged to “tread lightly” through the use of notices. The Summer Party returned for the first time in three years and was well-attended. Thanks go to the Orchard Jazz Quartet, St. Margaret’s Elastic band, the Motleys, and UKewLele for the wonderful programme of live music. Later, the Friends’ Tea was held in October and the Wassail also returned in January where there was a good attendance despite poor weather.

When possible, Pensford Field has been used for a number of educational visits during the past year by parties from local schools, such as Darell and nurseries such as Casa Montessori. We continue to make both formal and informal contacts with schools and local community groups to widen awareness and use of the Field for educational purposes throughout the community. We were also pleased to host the Autumn “Habitats and Heritage” meeting and benefit from the knowledge and expertise of its attendees.

The past year has also seen a continued emphasis on mental health and wellbeing in the UK and the Field has played its part in continuing its relationship with “A Dose of Nature”, a group where the wellbeing of individuals with conditions such as depression is addressed through sessions being held in the Studio and the Field. They also run Music therapy as part of their offering.

Where possible, we have also attended local events and undertaken other activities to raise the profile of the Field.

4. Plans for 2023/24

- To continue to plan and carry out woodland management.
- To update the Management Plan following guidance that has been provided by the Council and other environmental groups.
- Continue to improve understanding of the use and purpose of the Field within the neighbouring community.
- Continue to sustain good relationships and work with Pensford Tennis Club.
- Activities planned, in some cases for fund-raising, and in all cases contributing to raised awareness include repeats of the events outlined in this report.
- Specifically-educational activities include extension of the use of the Field by local schools as field trips and educational walks/talks for the local community.
- Continue to encourage students to base research projects in the Field and encourage surveys of the Field.
- Extend/maintain links with Rotary Club, Kew Fete, Kew Society and Kew Village Market.
- Reapply for Green Flag award status and London in Bloom

5. Financial Review

Total income for the period covered by this report was £6,686, whilst expenditure (with the updating of the Studio) was £6,320. Since we started the year with net assets of £12,792, we finished in credit to the tune of £13,158. Income is derived from grants, fund-raising activities, donations and our Friends group. We have in place both an expenses and a reserves policy. Our reserves policy is “to retain sufficient reserves to meet emergencies such as severe weather damage to trees or the studio, which we estimate to be £3,000”.

Accounts are included.

6. Current Trustees and Directors

Mary Smith continued in the role of Interim Chair until Sarah Atkins assumed the role of Chair at the AGM: our thanks go to Mary for her support in her capacity as Interim Chair.

At the March Committee meeting, the Committee agreed that there wasn't a current requirement for a Person of Significant Control and passed a Resolution to this effect. Bob Gingell also changed from being a Trustee/Director to a Committee member.

7. Patrons, benefactors, donors

Anthony Roberts for Summer Party sponsorship

Caroline Blomfield and Brian Secrett for photos for website

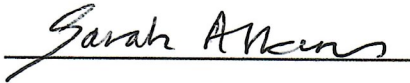
Kew Fete for donation for gate

Kew Village Market for Summer Party live music sponsorship

Tasha Hunter on behalf of LBRuT

8. Signature

Sarah Atkins, Chair


Date 13 July 2023

Pensford Field Environmental Trust Limited

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Income	2023	2022
Donation Antony Roberts	400	
Kew Village Market	300	
Kew Fete	395	
Subscriptions	27	25
Standing order subscriptions	685	710
Hire of studio and field	1,915	4,445
Accrued Hire of studio	1,020	
Summer party	1,304	
Card sales	102	50
key deposits w/o		76
Wassail	353	
Tax refund from HMR&C	185	176
	<u>6,686</u>	<u>5,481</u>
Expenditure		
Party expenses	692	
Wassail expenses	144	
Marquee 50%	297	
Sum up machine	39	
Hose/tools	178	342
Hedge cutting (share)		212
Mowing		32
Plumbing	648	
Electric report	300	
Gate	1,469	
Meadow and crab apple		464
Website design	200	
Website	372	
London in Bloom	25	
Water & Sewerage	458	
Bench/tables	549	598
Good Energy	504	644
Ground lease	2	
Companies House	13	375
Insurance	430	410
	<u>6,320</u>	<u>3,076</u>
Surplus for year	366	<u>2,405</u>
Funds b/f 1st April 2023	<u>12,792</u>	10,387
Acumulated funds c/f 31 March 2023	<u>13,158</u>	<u>12,792</u>

Pensford Field Environmental Trust Limited

Company Number 6007255

Charity Number 1118800

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023

	2023		2022	
Bank balance 31 March 2023		13,011		13,349
Accrued expenses	<u>1023</u>	-1023	<u>557</u>	- 557
Prepayment	50			
Accrued income	<u>1120</u>	<u>1170</u>		
Net Assets c/f 31 March 2023		13,158		12,792

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Signed *Harriet Enthoven*
Director

Name HARRIET ENTHOVEN

Date 13 July 2023