

## **The Southern Wildlife Care & Advisory Trust/The Folly Wildlife Rescue Trust RCN 1091857**

### **Annual Report 2018**

2018 was the Trust's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary working with wildlife – a notable achievement and something that everyone who has helped make Folly Wildlife Rescue what it is today – one of the country's leading facilities - justly proud of.

But it has also been one of our most challenging years too - notable for the extraordinarily high number of casualties that were admitted in the course of the year. At the end of 2017 this number stood at 3300 (very much, give or take a few hundred, in line with the last 10 years) but in 2018 the year-end total had risen to a staggering 4102.

And with this surge came numerous operational problems – not least the substantial increase to the Trust's already not inconsiderable workload. Recruitment and training of additional summer season Care Assistants had actually taken place in the spring and by the time it became apparent that admissions were going through the roof, it was too late to contemplate increasing staff numbers – which in any event would have been problematic due to budgetary constraints.

With so many extra mouths to feed, food bills too rose considerably towards the end of the season (although this was mitigated to some degree by very positive responses to our appeals for many essential food items on social media).

Therefore, by the end of September, staff (many of whom had yet to take a holiday) were exhausted.

The reasons for this massive increase in admissions are still not fully understood, but during the year, many smaller (often home-based rescues) had closed their doors or reduced their intake, leading to a surge in referrals from increasingly further afield.

Such a situation is largely beyond the Trust's control and to some extent is the victim of its own success. The region generally is poorly served with charities doing this specialist work and it only takes a surge of this nature, or two of them to get into difficulties for problems to arise.

Financially too, this situation put a strain on already stretched resources. Despite almost continuous fundraising efforts throughout the year, by both the Trust and its supporters, sources of income remained tenuous at best - and it is no exaggeration to state that in order to carry out our work, we continue to rely heavily on legacies.

These factors aside, in general, did generally perform well. There is still an additional need for certain specialist accommodation (bats for instance as well as better provision for water birds) but await the necessary funding.

A priority soon is the proposed extension to Building 1, that will not only house a Wildlife Awareness Centre (to highlight exactly why wild animals are being killed and injured by human activities) but will allow us to change the configuration of the existing reception area and ICU, which currently overlap, leading to many problems. It is hoped that a planning application (and most of the funding) will be ready by late 2019.

The veterinary unit continues to function well and since opening in late 2016, has been the Trust's 'Jewell in the Crown' transforming the way the hospital operates and allowing rapid diagnosis of casualties and the prompt commencement of treatment – in the process saving many lives.

The Trust's Deer Rescue Unit continues to be very busy. During the year, a new livestock trailer was purchased (via a grant) to assist with the transportation and release of recovered deer and deer fawns. In addition, well over 250 incidents involving deer were attended, including referrals by both the police and the RSPCA.

A second, more sophisticated pneumatic dart gun was also acquired during the year to give the deer unit greater flexibility in the use of this equipment, that has now transformed the way these somewhat problematic animals are handled.

Several upgrades to the hospital's security system were carried out, including CCTV, lighting and intruder alarms.

The new piece of land purchased by the Trust in 2016 that lies adjacent and just to the North East of the existing site is due to be fenced in 2019 following a grant by the cosmetics company Lush.

Extending to around an acre, plans are also being drawn up for several new facilities (bird of prey aviary, badger pens, flight test pen, polytunnel and deer enclosure) for which planning permission will need to be needed. It is not thought that this work will proceed until mid 2019.

At the first opportunity attention will be given to increasing the number of wildlife care staff, as events this year have demonstrated the hospital is woefully understaffed – exacerbated when staff inevitably take leave or are absent through sickness.

Volunteers continue to fill many of these gaps, but even here the picture is fluid, as on many occasions (especially during school holidays), the number of volunteers available considerably reduces.

Students, particularly veterinary students from the EU, continued to play a major role in assisting not only the Wildlife Hospital Manager, but the vet too, in filling gaps and keeping the hospital staffed throughout the year.

The Trust's educational programme made great strides, visiting numerous schools, colleges, youth and community groups to highlight the current plight of UK wildlife and demonstrate how people can do 'their bit' to help it. These talks and presentations are especially appreciated by the many reception, infant and junior school children visited – especially when considering that for many of them it is their first opportunity to see a live hedgehog.

During the year the Trust was able to acquire a new wildlife ambulance to augment the work of the two current vehicles. Funded by a mix of sources, including the *Winter Appeal*, grants, gifts and crowdfunding, the Ford Connect Courier van has now been equipped and sign written and is expected to be out on the road in March 2019, where its main role will be collecting casualties from vets and members of the public without their own transport.

Hopefully, in time, when further funding becomes available, the vehicle will be out on the road on a daily basis – but this is likely to be a few years away.

During the year, the main access drive to the hospital was resurfaced with tarmac. This is the first phase of an operation that will eventually see the car park re-surfaced too.

Work on the Trust's 6-acre nature reserve continued throughout the year, with groups of volunteers undertaking company Community Days bearing the brunt of the workload. Approximately half the site has now been brought under control, with almost all the re-growth of invasive rhododendron,

shallon and bramble halted – largely through the assistance of the six conservation-grazing Hebridean sheep that are kept there for this purpose.

**SOUTHERN WILDLIFE CARE AND ADVISORY TRUST**  
**"FOLLY WILDLIFE RESCUE"**

**Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2018**

	<u>31.12.18</u>	<u>31.12.17</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Grants	19500.00	15869.68
Sundry donations (including collection box support group, sales and fundraising)	90455.43	75761.34
Legacies	62872.03	93394.49
RSPCA	3984.00	4784.00
Fox project	7064.71	4935.01
Sale of merchandising and fundraising	38926.23	17888.69
Educational talks	831.25	567.63
Adoptions	1140.70	1291.96
Tax refunds	10121.81	11229.02
Interest received	87.52	13.58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income for the year</b>	234983.68	225735.40
<b><u>LESS</u></b>		
Wages	114731.00	99148.20
Pension contributions	1876.76	482.65
Veterinary fees and supplies	8077.70	11384.55
Equipment repair and renewal	10262.96	4692.86
Animal feed	8408.79	8531.29
Deer rescue	5184.11	2991.00
Transport	1733.76	4452.86
Protective clothing	694.79	1062.37
Professional Costs	2319.50	3562.80
Premises	5664.28	5323.14
Rent	0.00	750.00
Insurance	3899.12	2822.88
Waste disposal	3851.00	3328.58
Miscellaneous	2520.89	2089.01
Telephone	2350.66	2531.93
Printing, postage and stationery	4767.82	3367.40
Software	903.67	941.75
Promotional costs	815.57	2118.82
Merchandise for resale	4605.34	2827.21
Bank charges	562.61	436.95
Depreciation of equipment and motor vehicle	21070.97	18729.38
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenses for the year</b>	204301.30	181575.63
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<u><u>£30,682.38</u></u>	<u><u>£44,159.77</u></u>

**SOUTHERN WILDLIFE CARE AND ADVISORY TRUST**  
**"FOLLY WILDLIFE RESCUE"**

**Balance Sheet at 31st December 2018**

	<u>31.12.18</u>		<u>31.12.17</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Freehold Land		123,769.11	123,769.11
Buildings	444,767.15		426587.06
Additions	<u>14,897.90</u>		<u>18,180.09</u>
		459,665.05	444,767.15
Equipment	44452.60		59270.13
Additions	<u>21100.74</u>		
	65553.34		<u>59270.13</u>
less depreciation	<u>16388.33</u>		<u>14817.53</u>
		49165.00	44452.60
Motor vehicle	11735.55		1152.405
Addition	<u>6995</u>		<u>14495.00</u>
	18730.55		<u>15647.41</u>
less depreciation	<u>4682.64</u>		<u>3911.85</u>
		<u>14047.92</u>	<u>11735.55</u>
		646,647.08	624724.41
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bank balance	106,066.58		97,306.87
		106,066.58	97,306.87
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>£752,713.66</b></u>	<u><b>£722,031.28</b></u>
Represented by:-			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Brought forward	183640.00		139480.23
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	<u>30682.38</u>		<u>44159.77</u>
		214322.38	183640.00
<b>FOLLY WILDLIFE CENTRE PROJECT</b>			
Brought forward	538,391.28		538391.28
Expenditure	<u></u>		<u></u>
		538,391.28	538,391.28
<b>BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2018</b>		<u><b>£752,713.66</b></u>	<u><b>£722,031.28</b></u>

I have prepared these accounts from the books and records supplied to me by the Trust and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

C.W.Turner  
Chartered Accountant  
16-Oct-19

**31.12.16**

	103769.11
361467.59	
<u>65,119.47</u>	
	426587.06
59984.91	
<u>19041.93</u>	
<u>79026.84</u>	
<u>19756.71</u>	
	59270.13
1536.54	
<u>1536.54</u>	
<u>384.14</u>	
	1152.405
	<u>590778.705</u>

<u>87,092.80</u>	
	87092.8
	<u><u>£677,871.51</u></u>

95397.51	
44159.77	
	139557.28
538391.28	
<u>538391.28</u>	

	538391.28
	<u><u>£677,948.56</u></u>

**31.12.15**

	103769.11
361467.59	
<u>361467.59</u>	
	361467.59
10656.29	
<u>69323.59</u>	
<u>79979.88</u>	
<u>19994.97</u>	
	59984.91
2048.73	
<u>2048.73</u>	
<u>512.18</u>	
	1536.55
	<u>526758.16</u>

<u>107030.63</u>	
	107030.63
	<u><u>£633,788.79</u></u>

64040.13	
<u>31357.38</u>	
	95397.51
538391.28	
<u>538391.28</u>	

	538391.28
	<u><u>£633,788.79</u></u>

