

Forest of Hearts Annual Report

2022



Forest *of* Hearts

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Introduction



2022 has proven to be a successful year for Forest of Hearts, where we have been able to deliver more projects, in more places with a new team of enthusiastic and skilled people who really care about boosting biodiversity and improving wellbeing through creating gardens for good.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS 2022

FOREST OF HEARTS

192 
Volunteers

2,057
Volunteer
hours 

250 
Hours of
Green Therapy

 **535**
kg of fruit picked
& donated

3 
Community
programmes run

 **76**
Linear metres
of living wall
installed

3 
More Barn Owl
chicks

2,022
Trees planted


 **5**
Gardens
created

12 
Corporate
partners



67,000 
People reached
through social
media

www.forestofhearts.com

We planted 2022 trees



We planted 2,022 trees in 2022 in a bid to build biodiversity, combat climate change and create green spaces in our local community. We planted oak, willow, alder, dog rose, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn.

We offer a variety of ways your company can get involved with us to plant trees as part of your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments or Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy.

Whatever your aims, we'll work together to devise a mutually-beneficial partnership and plan that helps enhance your brand and helps meet your CSR and sustainability objectives.

2057 volunteer hours given



192 volunteers gave 2,057 hours of their time to help our charity with a number of our horticultural and environmental projects to create positive change and improve their wellbeing..

We pay tribute to all our volunteers who give their time and energy so readily which means that we can do ore work to boost biodiversity and give back to local communities.

We held CSR team events



We worked with a number of corporate groups to build teams, boost biodiversity and give back to the local community. Some of the organisations we have worked with in 2022 are below.



We created an orchard



We welcomed The Hershey Company to our five-acre nature reserve just outside Stratford-Upon-Avon to create fruit tree guilds in our recently planted orchard area. The 11 employees joined us as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility and also wanted an event to encourage staff communication and teamwork as well as getting offsite to enjoy the outdoors and offer headspace from busy working days in the office.

Their sustainability strategy outlines their intention to make a difference through investing in places where we live, employee engagement and volunteerism with their 'shared goodness promise' and we were so pleased they chose to volunteer with us.

We have a great team!



We have a wonderful team who manage the projects, plant the trees, run the events, maintain the gardens, keep up with social media and manage to have fun and give back at the same time.

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Donnison, we helped spread the message of health and wellbeing, biodiversity and positive change through our social media channels by reaching over 56,000 people in 2021.

Five new gardens created



5 gardens created to provide places of purpose to improve wellbeing, boost biodiversity, enhance volunteering opportunities and give back to the local community and NHS. Gardens were created at Stratford, Leamington and Warwick hospitals, Birmingham Road in Stratford and at The Dell for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Room for the Soul with RSC



The 'Room for the Soul' art installation was a big hit which saw areas of The Dell transformed into a magical outdoor lounge where plants and flowers overwhelmed furniture. These ephemeral art pieces included portraits of our Green Therapy group who helped design the furniture fabrics during workshops with artist Faye Claridge over the past month. They also helped grow the plants used as part of their horticultural therapy sessions we run twice a week at Stratford-Upon-Avon hospital.

The mood was set perfectly with folk music performed by our very own Luca Falcomer-Dawson. The talented local singer did 3 sets on the live stage in between poetry readings related to Shakespeare, the environment and memories of The Dell.

Welcombe Hills School



We enjoyed a successful community project for 15 individuals with mild to moderate learning difficulties from Welcombe Hills School in Stratford-Upon-Avon alongside ThinkForward. Over the 11 weeks we put on horticultural and environmental sessions in a number of locations in Stratford to help the group strengthen their town links for further volunteering and work opportunities.

The sessions were also designed to improve their soft skills, communication, teamwork, independence and self-confidence, for which we saw a marked improvement in all these areas. As a collective, they helped make a big impact in the local community with many practical activities completed to benefit people, places and the environment.

Thanks to our supporters



Thanks to all our supporters and funders who have helped us to continue and grow.



Financials

FINANCIAL REVIEW

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

THE POLICY FOR HOLDING RESERVES IS TO HAVE AT LEAST 6 MONTHS RUNNING COSTS IN RESERVE

DETAILS OF ANY FUNDS MATERIALLY IN DEFICIT : N/A

THE CHARITY IS IN A STRONG POSITION WITH CASH IN THE BANK WHICH IS NEEDED TO DELIVER THE VARIOUS PROJECTS. WE ARE IN OUR EARLY YEARS AND ARE TAKING A PRUDENT VIEW OF OUR FINANCES.

INCOME £180,253
EXPENDITURE £138,151
CASH FUNDS £107,182

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people:

Forest of Hearts team: Tom Donnison, Hes Bradley, Mark Drummond, Luca Falcomer-Dawson, Ann Johnson, Dan Joyce, Richard Edwards, Bruno Mason, Heather Osmond, Charlie Meredith-Owen, Chris Wooll, David Ball.

Trustees and management team: Lani Dines, John Bill, Wil Hepworth, Hannah Train



Thank You!

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