



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE



Annual Report 2021 – 2022

Registered Charity No 293475
Company Limited by Guarantee No 1975481



Directors and Trustees

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Dan Abel | Secretary |
| Erin Baltes | |
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| Natalie Maderova | |
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| Herman Ringer | |
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| Sarah Wallis | |



Permanent Staff

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dan Cantwell | Inclusion Co-ordinator |
| Jan Coughlin | Centre Co-ordinator |
| Robyn Cuthbert | Youth Referrals Co-ordinator |
| Carl Greenslade | Fundraising & Volunteer Co-ordinator |
| Myriam Guenem | Activity Instructor |
| William Tytler | Youth Activities Co-ordinator |
| Mike Wardle | Centre Director |

Part Time Staff and Volunteers

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| T'Kaiyah Browne | Julia Chepurna |
| Nayla Chouaib | Bridget Crotty |
| Jack Crowther | Lewis Davies |
| Simone Dunkley | Richard Elkan |
| George Farrell | Richard Greenslade |
| Aaliyah Joanes | Akash Marsh |
| Claire McNally | Elysia Morton |
| Louis Officer | Asher Robinson |
| Alexandra Tribe | Channun Vitalis |

Goodbye, Good Luck and Best Wishes to:

Martine Fitt, Dan Jones, Andrew Ktenas, Natalie Maderova, Herman Ringer and Sarah Wallis



The Centre wishes to thank:

BBC Children in Need
 Canary Wharf Ltd
 Cory Community Fund
 East End Community Foundation
 GLA Young Londoners Fund
 Hands On London
 Hermitage River Projects
 Jack Petchey Foundation
 Julia and Hans Rausing Trust
 London Borough of Tower Hamlets
 London Dock Community Fund
 London Marathon Charitable Trust

The Maitlands Fund Charitable
 Trust
 Mayor of London
 National Lottery
 The North Face
 Outward Bound Trust
 Pemberton Barnes Trust
 St George
 Sport England
 Tideway
 Tower Hill Trust
 Volunteering Matters

The Centre is fortunate to have many supporters and volunteers who assist it in providing challenging, exciting and worthwhile activities for the local community. We wish to thank everybody who has given their time, energy and enthusiasm.



Chair's Report

Life at the beginning of our financial year seems a long time ago. In April 2021, we were just emerging from the lockdowns of 2020 – 2021 to welcome back the young people, schools and clubs for normal face-to-face activities. It is difficult to appreciate that at that time, we still had staff on furlough and it was not until early June 2021 that all staff were back on the premises full time.

After a year of successive lockdowns, there was a lot of work to be done in preparing the Centre for activities again. This included staff training to ensure that everyone was up to speed on the new operations and approaches to working in a post-Covid world. We also had face-to-face inspections by British Canoeing, Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, Learning Outside the Classroom, Adventure Mark and the Royal Yachting Association to ensure that our operations met current requirements.

We undertook a review and clean-up of the site, premises and equipment and set in motion a proposal to renovate the changing rooms and shower blocks. Contractors were appointed in March 2022 and the work was carried out in April-May 2022. Unfortunately, we also faced on-going problems in finding cleaning contractors following the re-opening of the Centre as all the firms we approached had difficulties recruiting staff to do the work. This meant that the Centre staff undertook a rota for cleaning work until very recently when new contractors were finally put in place. Fingers crossed that this will continue to work out!

Both the Centre and the adult clubs saw a big demand for their activities. Schools started returning from March 2021 for GCSE lessons, regular physical activities, and one-off sessions. Attendances from schools continued to grow throughout the year even in the colder months until they finally reached pre-Covid levels.

Demand was so great for the youth club that the Centre had to put a cap on attendance figures and maintain a waiting list of 90 young people. The online booking system developed to cope during 2020-21 remained in place to ensure an equitable distribution of attendance places.

In particular, the booking system enables us to guarantee the inclusion in our youth programmes of young people referred by our partner organisations, namely "Inspiring Futures" funded by Young Londoners Fund, 'Adventure For All' and "Adventure Together" funded by Children In Need, "Right To Explore" funded by North Face and the Youth and Girls Provision funded by "Local Community Fund" administered by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.



The Adventure Coach Training Scheme saw a fantastic 12 young people pass their qualifications to enable them to take up positions as coaches and join the pool of workers at the Centre. This scheme is unique to Shadwell and enables young people not only to learn outdoor activities but also to develop life skills in decision-taking, risk analysis and leadership that will help them both in the workplace and their life outside Shadwell.

The adult clubs saw increasing numbers of new attenders taking advantage of the opportunity to learn and take part in sailing and kayaking activities following the restrictions of lockdown. The Sailing Club held a successful No Tide Day Sailing Open Day in September 2021 (when the Thames Barrier was closed for the day) and the Canoe Club had a full house for beginners courses up until November 2021.

April 2021 also saw the start of changes in our back-office work. Firstly, Multiply took over as our accountants and bookkeepers which involved us transferring to new accounting systems that our Centre Coordinator, Jan Coughlin, has learned to master. We have followed up in this financial year with the appointment of Multiply as the independent examiner of our accounts for 2021-22. This provides a cheaper alternative to the annual audit of our accounts and is the form of external review of accounts that is normally adopted by charities of our size.



The other major change in systems in the past year has been the migration of the Centre's computer systems to Office 365. This took rather longer than anticipated as we had to re-establish control over our domain name and then change our internet provider to one that could accommodate the speeds needed for migration to Office 365. As a result, the actual migration was not started until the 2022-23 financial year, and we are still ironing out some of the glitches.

Another major change for us has been the impact on our fundraising of the closure of the Virgin Money Giving platform in November 2021. After investigating the alternatives and identifying one that we hoped would give us a reasonable balance of fundraising capabilities against the cost of the services, we signed up with Total Giving. Unfortunately, they appeared to be inundated by charities with similar demands to our own and they were not able to even respond to our attempts to contact them. As a result, we turned to CAF Donate which were able to cover the collection of donations but the interface for donors has been far from user-friendly. So, we are now signing up with Givey and will launch this imminently.

Although our financial results in the year 2021-22 have been positive and we were thrilled to obtain another 3 years of funding from Children in Need which runs from 1 January 2022, the 2022-23 financial year is proving more challenging. The costs of running an outdoor activities centre are substantial, and we will be focusing for the rest of the financial year on fundraising initiatives in 2022-23.

Our current 10 year plan for the Centre finishes in 2024, and we started a review in March 2022 which we aim to get in place during the next calendar year. This means looking again at what we do, how we do it and what can be done better. We look forward to taking up this challenge in the coming year.

Finally, I must thank:

- our dedicated staff team, pool of workers and volunteers for all their fantastic commitment in the past year;
- my colleagues on the Management Committee for supporting the Centre in meeting the challenges of the past year;
- our funders and donors for making it all possible; and
- everyone in the Shadwell community for continuing to support us.

Penny Bruce Walker (Chair of Trustees)

November 2022

Centre Activities Report

2021-22, our 45th year engaged in outdoor and adventure activities, has been a year of re-opening and re-establishing our programmes and operations post pandemic.

As a Centre we were soon inundated with young people, groups, schools and adults all wanting to take part once more. So much so that by the winter we were full to capacity across the board and had even closed waiting lists. This was a challenge with staffing and coaches, which will probably continue into the near future as well as the challenge to financial costs.



A reminder of the pre-pandemic operations was the journey across this year, back to using the activities as a vehicle for change and growth. A return to creating opportunities, for individuals to push boundaries, explore their emotions and develop their values. Each person started to find their own fulfilment here again, from youth provision structured “Pathways” to adult club training sessions, to the freedom of experience through exploration and growth of mental wellbeing by interacting with the natural environment.

Club members, staff, newly qualified young coaches and volunteers embarked on professional and personal development, updating qualifications as well as devoting large numbers of hours to others skill development.



We also continued with projects addressing the vulnerabilities in people through funded grants, from working with “At Risk” young people to those with disabilities.



Another significant challenge was establishing our fundraising once more and re-organising our donation platforms after Virgin Money Giving closed.

We looked forward in planning in March 2022 with a community evaluation of our ten year development plan that finishes in 2024. This has been very successful and we hope to create a new plan in the coming year.

The main focus though revolves around the feeling that it is good to be back. Users can be reassured that the Centre will continue to offer a journey for young and old, creating a positive and stimulating atmosphere where all are welcome and encouraged. A place where there is support for individual development through challenge, from the beginner to the experienced. This will ultimately arm participants with skills and resilience to enable them to cope with adversity and overcome barriers by creating their own solutions.



Youth Activities

In 2021-22 193 young people took part in 70 sessions and 84 days of challenging and adventurous activities, with a total of 6,239 attendances in the youth project.

After a challenging year of lockdowns and restrictions the activities were more needed than ever. The Centre was overwhelmed with requests from young people wishing to join the youth programmes and, with all sessions fully booked, a waiting list was created for the first time.

With this increase in need, in an area that has one of the highest child poverty rates in the UK, it is more important than ever that the Centre continues to provide high quality activities at an 80% subsidy so that all local young people, whatever their circumstances, are able to take part.



The programme is made up of regular weekly sessions, holiday projects and offsite trips. Young people attend sessions targeted at their age group and level of experience, enabling individuals to progress through the appropriate levels of challenge of the “Pathways” awards. The high quality teaching has been recognised by the retention of the “Learning Outside the Classroom” Award.

Special projects that support the varied needs of young people are embedded into the programme. These include healthy lifestyles and girls work, the integrated programme “Adventure Together”, “Inspiring Futures” that mentors “at risk” young people, the Leadership programme, the Adventure Coach Training Scheme and “The Right To Explore”, which creates much needed pathways to employment for black and ethnic minority coaches.



The junior 5 to 8’s programme is now in its seventh year and some of the participants from the early days are now teenagers joining the Leadership programme and taking the first steps to become coaches themselves.

In the 2021 Summer Project 135 young people participated in 20 days of activities, obtaining 22 accredited and 123 certificated outcomes, with 1,972 visits in total.

Further afield, young people developed their sailing on a residential to the coast, climbed the spectacular Striding Edge on Helvellyn, wild camped overlooking Scafell Pike and learnt white water kayaking skills in the Lake District. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver group passed their assessment in July in the Lake District and the group are now planning the training for their Gold Award in 2022.



“The kids attended the session today and they couldn't stop talking about how much fun they had and how many new friends they'd made. I wanted to say thank you to you and the team for putting this together and making it so engaging.”

Core values such as respect, equality, kindness, friendship and courage are at the heart of all the work that takes place, giving a welcoming, safe and supportive environment for young people to grow through challenge.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The D of E programme is an integral and very successful part of the activities with young people, instilling participants with a sense of self knowledge and achievement, helping to create the positive and supportive atmosphere that young people experience in the youth programme. This year there were eleven young people taking part, all at Silver level.



The ethos of the award is one of empowering young people and supporting them as they learn new skills, overcome obstacles and build confidence and resilience. We see these elements growing within participants as they become more mature, independent and responsible individuals.

The opportunity to visit wilderness areas as part of the award is really important and this year the training and assessed expedition took place in the Lake District. In the past D of E groups have coped with cold, wet and windy weather, whilst this year the expedition took place on the hottest week of the year.



The group had to think carefully about the amount of water to carry and to pace themselves in very different, but equally challenging conditions. It was impressive to see the training, preparation and planning of all the individuals put successfully into practice throughout the expedition.



Although the expedition is a major part of the award at all three levels, young people make a much broader commitment throughout the year to also undertake the volunteering, physical and skills sections which make up the award.

The participants this year all successfully completed the various sections of the Silver award and hopefully will go on to work towards their Gold award in the future and to use their skills, knowledge and experience to become leaders and mentors for newer members.



The comment below shows the challenge and reward of participating in the award:

"The Silver D of E expedition was one of the hardest challenges I've ever faced. From the sweltering heat to the eighteen kilometre walks, by day three I was shocked that I had made it this far. But, no matter how gruelling the day was as soon as we reached camp each evening I forgot all about the tiresome day. The feeling of achievement was immense. I value my experience of the D of E expedition as it taught me perseverance. Every time I go through something challenging in my life I just think to myself, I've been through Silver D of E, I can do anything!"



Offsite Trips

Providing young people with the chance to experience activities in the natural environment is one of the most valuable elements of the Centre's work. Residential and day trips to the wild areas of the UK are vital in enabling young people to broaden their horizons and challenge themselves in adventurous and exciting situations. These shared experiences offer individuals a deep insight into themselves, their character and strengths, creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime.



This year the Centre was once again able to run trips and residential as restrictions eased. Trips included a Silver D of E expedition to Coniston and a summer residential to Windermere, both in the Lake District, day trips on the Thames and a sailing weekend on the coast in Brightlingsea.

The skills that young people have learnt at Shadwell are put to the test and developed further in natural and sometimes challenging environments and in all weathers. Activities this year included rock climbing and hill walking, mountain biking, stand up paddleboarding, canoeing, white water kayaking, sailing and an overnight bivouac.



Living and working together as part of a team on these trips offers young people the opportunity to develop life skills they will rely on as they grow into adults. Most of the trips are camping based and the participants learn campcraft, cooking and how to look after themselves and their equipment. The social times spent with each other are often the most valuable parts of the trip, with individuals developing independence and confidence in their own strengths.

“Thomas and Sanem had an amazing time and were buzzing with excitement and lots of stories on their return. Thomas is very keen to work towards Horizon group, as he's wishing to train to become an instructor in the future! Thank you everyone at Shadwell, doing an amazing work and inspiring our children in such a positive way.”



“I just wanted to thank the whole Shadwell team for the amazing residential - Alice and Rose had such a great time. I'm sure it was a life changing experience for them and your team was amazing in organising such a successful trip.”

Schools Report

This year nearly 3,000 students visited the Centre as part of its popular schools programme, with over 7,000 attendances taking place. This was a return to the numbers that attended prior to Covid restrictions and it was wonderful to see students enjoying the activities once more.



The Centre has been recognised for its high quality coaching, planning and safety with the award of the Learning Outside the Classroom Badge. The programme runs year round for 5 – 18 year olds and has a wide range of activities on offer. Sessions include one off taster visits and activities focused on accredited awards, GCSE and A Level programmes.

Many local schools and educational groups return every year as a regular part of their provision and the Centre is valued by them for the opportunities for students to take part in physical activity, have fun and learn new skills. Sessions focus on building confidence, independence and co-operation, instilling a positive attitude and encouraging students to explore their strengths and experience new challenges in a safe and supportive environment.



This year many new schools visited as an alternative to previously planned residential trips that were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. These sessions gave students an opportunity to take part in outdoor activities that they had been looking forward to throughout the school year and would otherwise not have been able to access.

One of our regular groups have written below about their visits to the Centre:

“The Home Educators Group has now entered it's third year of running successfully at Shadwell Basin. Home Ed groups are quite unique in their composition as they may include a range of ages and abilities as well as learning styles and approaches in general. It is no mean feat therefore, that the Shadwell instructors manage the nature of our group to such effect that we keep returning again and again!

Within its rather stunning setting, the Centre provides a marvellous place for home ed families, many of whom do not know one another until they arrive, to make new friends and have fun whilst participating in the variety of activities on offer.

The sessions are full of fun and motivation and skills are often interwoven within a series of problem solving tasks. This kind of approach keeps everyone thinking and working together, creating a great bond within the group. Children and parents also enjoy receiving the Pathway certificates showing the different types of progress made during the term. It is amazing how much can be achieved whilst having so much fun!

Participants say things like: “There's a good range of activities and the sessions are fun at the same time as doing lots of learning. They make learning fun!” Parents say things like: “He loves it!” and when a space becomes available, “I want that space!” and comment generally on how patient and calm the instructors are, along with feeling confident they are in safe hands. A big thank you to Will and Jan for making the sessions possible and so successful. Also, for making the families feel very welcome and well looked after.”

Inclusion Programmes “Adventure for All” and “Adventure Together”



The Centre is very grateful to Children in Need for funding these important programmes, which use innovative ways of working to support the needs of individuals and enable their development. It is very rewarding to see the results of this work, with young people flourishing and growing in independence and confidence.

“Adventure for All”

This Project has been running since 2015 and has worked with many individuals, schools and groups. Since the start of the Children in Need funding in January 2019 there have been 375 individuals attending 349 sessions, with 1,756 visits in total. As well as using specifically adapted equipment, such as the Hansa Access sailing dinghies, the staff are imaginative and flexible in creating high quality learning with a balance of challenge and success for participants. The quality of the programmes has also been recognised by the achievement of both Sailability and Paddle-Ability Awards.



The year was difficult for these projects as some schools and groups were unable to visit due to restrictions on their offsite trips. However, special events were run successfully with local School Partnerships from across the Borough, with sixteen schools attending. Individuals also attended through sessions in the holiday programmes such as the Summer Project, with some continuing through integrated sessions.

“Adventure Together”

This unique and pioneering Project uses outdoor and adventure activities to integrate young people with disabilities into the mainstream youth programmes.

Many of these young people first attended through “Adventure for All” sessions in the holiday programmes and in this year there were eleven young people who were integrated into mainstream youth sessions and attended regularly throughout the year.



This programme has had numerous successes, with young people gaining skills and social confidence, finding the strength to be independent and explore their capabilities. Members have gone on to join the Leadership programme, represent Tower Hamlets in the London Youth Games and complete their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Fundraising, Volunteering and New Developments

Volunteering

The Centre is fortunate to have a large group of volunteers who enable it to meet its objectives. Members of the Shadwell community offer their time and expertise to help in many different ways.

Partnerships have been developed with Hands On London and Volunteering Matters, who both support the Centre through facilitating volunteer days with corporate groups.

Post pandemic the charity has not managed to start up its volunteering programmes as yet. We would welcome groups into the Centre to help with painting, boat maintenance and general site clearance.

Fundraising Events

Financial support from individuals and teams is vitally important to the continued survival and success of the Centre. It has been a difficult year to put together challenges and assist with fundraising events. We really need individuals and groups to take fundraising back to pre-Covid levels to help with our costs from events such as the Great River Race and rowing challenges to individuals entering races. After the Virgin Money Giving fundraising platform closed we have moved our fundraising to CAF Donate.

New Developments

The Centre has been successful this year in the area of obtaining grants for equipment. The Pemberton-Barnes Trust provided a grant for very much needed new Mountain Bikes and Tower Hill Trust provided a grant to purchase Stand Up Paddleboards.



Outdoor Teaching Area

Thanks to a grant from Cory Riverside a new decked teaching area was built this year overlooking the river. It has given the Centre a valuable new space, which has been used all year round for sessions with the youth group, schools and courses. We are very grateful for the support from Cory in making this space a reality.



East End Canoe Polo Club

One of our newest user groups, the Club have become a regular Saturday morning fixture with their training sessions using the polo pitch on the Basin. They have also hosted a successful tournament called The Cut with other clubs, which fundraised for the Centre as well as being a great day with the competition closely fought by all the teams.



All of this assistance is invaluable in keeping the Centre running. Thank you to everyone who helped throughout the year, we appreciate and are heartened by the trust put in the Centre by all of our supporters.

Celebrating Achievement

Shadwell Pathways

This scheme, which was introduced in 2014, continues to be a positive way of working with young people. The scheme is an educational journey of exploration and discovery; which allows participants to gain experience and progressive skills as well as certificates and National Governing Body awards. The scheme includes a Leadership Award which gives a route into gaining coaching awards as young people develop their skills further.



Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

The young people's endeavours are recognised by their peers and the staff through the Jack Petchey Awards. These awards are voted on by the young people and are an important opportunity for members to be celebrated for their achievements and for reaching individual milestones.

Adventure Coach Training Scheme

One of the focus areas of the Centre's work has always been encouraging young people to gain new skills and access opportunities to training and employment. Currently, young leaders who have developed through the Pathways Scheme are supported and mentored to move into coaching roles through the Adventure Coach Training Scheme.



This year twelve young people successfully achieved their British Canoeing UKCC Paddlesport Instructor Award. They went on to volunteer in the summer project and will continue developing their skills whilst moving into employment.

"I got the wonderful opportunity to be part of the Adventure Coach Training Scheme. I am now a qualified kayaking instructor, which has enabled me to gain further qualifications with my instructor experience. This programme has created more opportunities and prospects with being able to financially support myself and possible further education if I wish to go down that path. The skills I have obtained with this scheme are transferable and will be applicable for the rest of my life."

London Youth Games

Youth members represented the London Borough of Tower Hamlets once more at this prestigious competition. The team won the overall Gold medal in Sprint and Bronze medal in Slalom, with individual Silver and Bronze medals in both disciplines. This was a fantastic achievement by the team against strong competition in the largest youth competition in the UK.



Special Projects & Events

Shadwell Youth Challenge

There was a welcome return for this long running annual event, which had been cancelled in 2020. It is a friendly introduction to competition in a supportive environment, with categories for speed climbing, kayak slalom and sprint. The event is often the first taste of competitive sport for many young people and is always well attended by members. To enable as many young people to participate as possible, this year the event was successfully held over a series of sessions throughout the autumn.

Inspiring Futures

This programme, funded by a grant from the Mayor of London's Young Londoners Fund, is led by Robyn Cuthbert and Carl Greenslade on a Job Share. It is designed to identify and engage young people who are "at risk" and inspire and support them to grow into the best person they can be. The programme includes 1-2-1 support sessions and group workshops, aimed at giving young people the tools to navigate their way through their teenage years, discuss issues affecting them and focus them on ways forward.



The Right to Explore

This is an innovative partnership with the Lindley Educational Trust and Outward Bound Trust, funded through The North Face and Sport England. The programme works with young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, providing pathways into employment in the outdoor activity sector.

The programme began in 2019 and many of the first group have now moved into the world of work. The successes of the first group enabled Outward Bound to expand the programme to encompass further organisations from Coventry and Sheffield. The second cohort of twenty four young leaders spent an intense week with Outward Bound in the Lake District, with some of them going on to mentor young people from local schools in their first outdoor experiences.

Healthy Lifestyles and Girls Work

Support from the LBTH Local Community Fund via a partnership with the Stifford Centre has enabled positive sessions to take place, with outdoor activities, educating about healthy lifestyles and the benefits of taking part in regular activity. This includes a continuation of the successful work with girls that had been funded previously.



Kilimanjaro Youth Challenge

The international expedition to Tanzania was originally planned to take place in 2020 and was postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. It will now take place in August – September 2022. The aim is to take a group of young people to Tanzania to climb Kilimanjaro and work on a project with street children. In the lead up to the expedition the group continued fundraising, including holding bake sales and quiz nights.



Groups who used the Centre throughout the year



9th Tower Hamlets Scouts

Aldgate School

Alleyn's School

Bethnal Green Cluster
Schools

Bishop Challoner School

Blue Gate Fields School

Canary Wharf College

Central Foundation

Commercial Rd Cluster
Schools

Dallington School

Daneford Trust

Devonds Road Cluster
Schools

E1 Cluster Schools

East End Canoe Polo Club

The Fireworks Firm

Green Gables Montessori

Harry Gosling School

Heartlands High School

Home Education Group

Ian Mikardo School

Kingston University

Latymer Upper School

Lawdale School

London Youth Rowing

Marion Richardson School

Mulberry School for Girls

Mulberry UTC

Nelson School

Pierhead Montessori

Predators Martial Arts

React First Aid

St John's School

St Paul's Cathedral School

St Paul's Way Primary School

St Saviour's School

Shadwell Sailing Club

Six Knots Coaching

Stepney Cluster Schools

Sudbourne School

Sussex House School

Thornhill Primary School

Tower Hamlets Canoe Club

Wapping Youth Football Club

Westminster Abbey Choir Sch

Whitechapel Cluster Schools

Wickham Court School



Shadwell Sailing Club

Sailing sessions re-started in April once the easing of lockdowns allowed and took place every Tuesday throughout the summer, with 'twilight' sessions continuing until the end of October. Numbers attending were limited to ensure that Covid restrictions were met. Sessions were oversubscribed, but the introduction of an inhouse WhatsApp group enabled us to control attendance.



The Hawk 20 and the Vicky J gave newcomers the opportunity to venture onto the Thames and have a more relaxed and enjoyable experience. Where possible we rotated newcomers into the Wayfarers to give them a glimpse of sailing a more responsive dinghy and hopefully whetted their appetite to helm a boat themselves. As one person said:

"In just one session I got to learn so much. Becoming skilled in sailing and learning how to work the river was very empowering. It's an incredible opportunity to be able to learn at the heart of the city."

The club relies heavily on our more experienced helms to assist with newcomers both on and off the water. So, a big thank you to all of those people. Not only does it make for a safer environment, but hopefully sets them up to be our instructors of the future.



A number of downriver sails took place at the weekends when tide and weather conditions permitted. Greenwich Yacht Club were our hosts on a number of occasions and provided us with a welcome comfort and refreshment break before the sail back to Shadwell.

In September a 'Come and Try Sailing on the River' was organised to coincide with the annual closure of the Thames Barrier. Friends of club members and members of the public were able to enjoy sailing on the river for the first time. Hopefully, this could become an annual event in the calendar.

We were able to run a number of RYA dinghy courses for novices, many of whom were keen to continue sailing with us on a regular basis. More experienced members passed on their skills by supporting the Senior Instructors on the courses. Others took part in joint courses run with North London Youth Sailing Association at Brightlingsea, giving them the opportunity to learn seamanship and day sailing skills.



We also ran two RYA level 2 powerboat courses and a safety boat course, which were well attended by members across a wide age spectrum. Increasing the number of people with powerboat qualifications really helps with the running of sessions and the club in general.

A number of maintenance days took place, and although many of the boats are showing signs of wear and tear, actually keeping them ashore when not being used has really helped to reduce the amount of work needed throughout the season. Members were also involved in replacing the mooring buoys and chains out on the river, and clearing debris from parts of the guttering around the building.

Tower Hamlets Canoe Club

THCC officially re-opened after the lengthy Covid lockdown in April 2021, with restricted numbers and strict rules to control transmission. We slowly rediscovered our paddling mojo on Tuesday evenings and on many trips further afield in all disciplines: day-trips on the Thames, the nearby coast and to Lee Valley; plus longer trips to Wales, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Scotland.



More lifting of restrictions later in the year meant we could start hosting BBQs again, but it wasn't until September that we could restart our monthly induction sessions and begin accepting new members.



In June we elected a new Chair & Secretary, and inaugurated several new committee members, marking the beginning of our efforts to achieve British Canoeing accreditation (the next step up from affiliation).

Other developments included the launch of BoatTrippy, a great online tool that enormously simplifies arranging trips, booking boats and SBOAC access-times. We also introduced a monthly club newsletter at the start of 2022, which is fast becoming a central place for important announcements, news of upcoming events, celebrating achievements and inspiring trip reports.



Over the winter we were successful in our bid for funding from Active Thames, which allowed us to kick off a very successful visually-impaired paddling programme. We also launched a bursary named after much-loved THCC member Toby Carr, who sadly passed away in January.

With many of our more experienced members moving away from London during the pandemic, the core of active club members shrank drastically, which meant a chronic lack of coaches and leaders. This, coupled with the rapid growth of the club once regular inductions could re-start, has meant a challenging year for us. However, we ended the year having progressed many people up to peer level in all disciplines, and trained up several new coaches and leaders.



Statement of Financial Activities
Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2022

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds 2022 £ | Total funds 2021 £ |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income and endowments | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 86,122 | 81,806 | 167,928 | 197,842 |
| Charitable activities | 104,689 | 23,584 | 128,273 | 59,225 |
| Other trading activities | 51,947 | - | 51,947 | 44,721 |
| Investment income | 7,688 | 8,360 | 16,048 | 18,074 |
| Other Income - CJRS | 9,563 | - | 9,563 | 44,825 |
| Total income | 260,009 | 113,750 | 373,759 | 364,687 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 191,143 | 148,329 | 339,472 | 300,496 |
| Total expenditure | 191,143 | 148,329 | 339,472 | 300,496 |
| Net gains (losses) on investments | 32,021 | (9,500) | 22,521 | 67,651 |
| Net Income | 100,887 | (44,079) | 56,808 | 131,842 |
| Transfers between funds | (15,270) | 15,270 | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 85,617 | (28,809) | 56,808 | 131,842 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 156,378 | 363,764 | 520,142 | 388,300 |
| Total funds carried forward | 241,995 | 334,955 | 576,950 | 520,142 |

This summary of income and expenditure and the balance sheet opposite are extracted from the full independent examination, copies of which are available from the Centre.



Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2022

| | 2022 | | 2021 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | | 20,902 | 9,897 |
| Investments | | 462,219 | 439,698 |
| | | <u>483,121</u> | <u>449,595</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 25,303 | | 63,166 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 103,849 | | 31,835 |
| | <u>129,152</u> | | <u>95,001</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | <u>(35,322)</u> | | <u>(24,454)</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>93,829</u> | <u>70,547</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>576,950</u> | <u>520,142</u> |
| Funds of the charity | | | |
| Restricted funds | | 334,955 | 363,764 |
| Unrestricted funds | | 241,995 | 156,378 |
| Total charity funds | | <u>576,950</u> | <u>520,142</u> |

For the financial year to 31st March 2022, the Centre's incoming resources were £373,759, an increase on the previous year due to meeting financial budget targets, attributed to general donations and support grants. "Donations and legacies" include programme grants from external funders and totalled £167,928, which is 45% of the charity's income. The "charitable activities" income which includes the delivery of activities totalled £128,273. "Other trading activities", including rental income, amounted to £51,947. The charity also received £9,563 from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in April and May 2021 for part time furloughed staff before a full return to work on 1st June 2021.

The Centre's expenditure was £339,472 giving the charity an operational surplus of £34,287, after adjustments in investment gains of £22,521 this was £56,808. The surplus was assisted by savings which were made because of the careful way that the Centre had re-opened in spring 2021. It was decided to spend the surplus wisely on the renovation of the changing rooms and toilets.

The major component of the expenditure, 66%, is represented by salaries and associated employers costs at £224,006. This was an expected increase on the previous year due to the operational demand as the year progressed.

The charity received investment income of £16,048 over the year. The investments stand at £462,219 on 31st March 2022. These assets are kept as charity shares and are used to carry out our operational responsibilities in our lease agreement with the site and buildings. These shares increased in value from the previous year.

In total, both from restricted and unrestricted funds after all the above adjustments, the balance for the charity on 31st March 2022 stands at £576,950. Therefore the overall financial picture of the charity at the time of these accounts is stable.

The Centre, staff and volunteers continue to provide high quality services whilst the Trustees and Directors have continued to work with staff and volunteers to manage the Centre's service within the resources available. The Centre remains dependent on grants and donations from charitable trusts, businesses and individuals as well as a number of larger three-year grants. The challenge moving forward is to grow our fundraising campaigns and events whilst keeping expenditure down.

Help us to change young people's lives

Many young people have told us how participating in the activities of the Centre has been a life changing experience. These changes are mainly either by going on to greater adventure and challenges in the world wilderness areas or by gaining the confidence, determination and inspiration to improve their expectations of what they can achieve. We will only be able to continue to do this with your help and support!

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre is a purpose built Centre between the River Thames and Shadwell Basin. It began its life as an organisation in 1976 after local parents and community leaders decided to set about transforming the derelict site and old dock into a resource for local people.

The Centre has now developed into a dynamic and safe space for young people and adults to try, experience and grow their potential using outdoor activities as a vehicle for pathways to achieve success. It provides the widest range of adventurous activities available in central London for everyone and has specialist programmes for the most vulnerable in society. As we offer subsidised rates to our youth provision of 80% then we are in need of constant support.

How can you help?

If 150 people raised or donated £2 a week it would make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts, please consider supporting us. Donations can be made directly on our pages at www.cafonline.com or www.givey.com/shadwellbasin, or through our website www.shadwell-basin.org.uk. We are also registered on the Charity Aid Foundation's "Give as you Earn" scheme with a registration number of 000456246. Many companies will also match what employees donate so why not check out how you can get your employer involved in making a contribution.

If you have any ideas on how to support the Centre or would like any further information please contact info@shadwell-basin.org.uk or give us a call on 020 7481 4210. Thank you for your help.

How to find us:

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre,
3-4 Shadwell Pierhead, Glamis Road, London E1W 3TD

Nearest bus 100 or D3

Nearest station Shadwell DLR or Wapping Overground

