Wildwood 2025

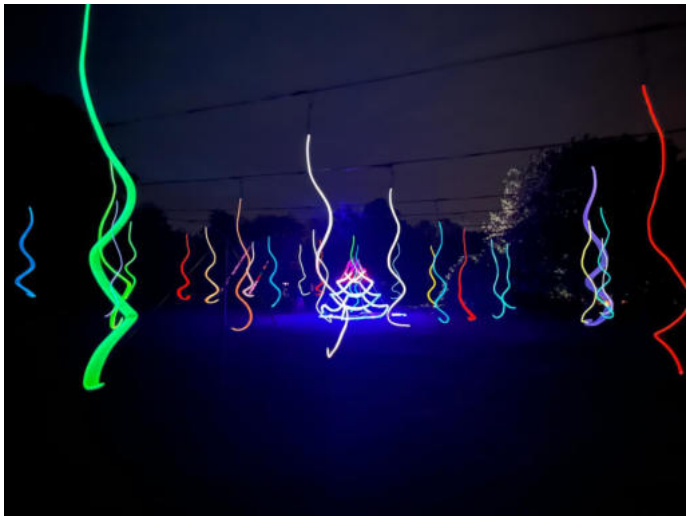
Having taken a well earned year off, Wildwood returned in 2025 to a new home in Wallingford, near Oxford.

The event ran from Friday 2nd May until Sunday 4th May, with some participants arriving on the preceding Thursday to help build the infrastructure and packing up and out on Monday 5th. 70 places were sold, including 4 to minors. 65 people attended, comprising 62 adults and 3 children, equating to 92.5% attendance. The youngest participant was 3 years old and the oldest was 79 :)





The central geographical location was chosen to support participants coming from all over the UK as well as offering much room for camping (tents and live in vehicles) and communal structures. As well as the permanent wooden space (the Vortex), we brought an event shelter bar area, a sizeable stretch tent (the Canopy) which was used as a crafting area, a cosy snug space, and a large bell tent (the Toastie Lounge) which was used for evening toastie making and daytime gatherings.



A full schedule was created, with things such as ranging from the crafty schwag making, pebble painting, knotting, and lantern decorating, to tasty food-based offerings: Swedish herring tasting, chocolate appreciation, Midnight miso, as well as daytime vegan porridge, pancakes, and Bloody Marys. Group singing and prog rock filled the musical gap :)



Two burns were held during the event, one on the Saturday night with a marvellous robot-shaped effigy being burned, and an impromptu temple burn on the Sunday night which brought everyone together for an unexpected and beautiful end to the event.

Pretty LED art installations, and fire art in the shape of a Ruben's Tube made night time just as vibrant as the daytime.



As well as a large number of compost toilets, facilities on site included excellent wood burner heated showers (the best ever experienced according to one participant :)). These were looked after by a small team who used wood from the communal wood order (also used for the campfires). Two cubic meters of wood was ordered and while not much was used initially, it was noted that had it been colder, more would have been (the temple burn used up the remaining logs).

The generous loan of solar equipment from a non-attendee meant not needing a generator for the lighting or power to the bar and Vortex, and worked very well.

The new venue worked extremely well for the group, with excellent feedback give during a Town Hall meeting help on the Sunday and in the post-event survey, with an overwhelming call to request a return in 2026.



Another event, regular to the venue, took place on the final day (Bank Holiday Monday), which meant that we shared the field on that day. While it did not cause any issue, it was not ideal for either us or the venue. The flip side of only being able to use one half of the field was that the participants felt more connected in the smaller space, but it did mean spreading out was limited.

One unfortunate point of confusion during the event was over the site's sound policy, whether the cut off was at 9pm or midnight. On the Saturday night, an unknown member of the live-in community asked for the amplified music to be turned down just after 11pm. This experience also highlighted it was not clear who our point of contact should have been during event time.

Slight hiccups aside, the event was a great success thanks to the combination of great location and enthusiastic participants. A return for 2026 is definitely on the cards.





Financial Report

Outgoings

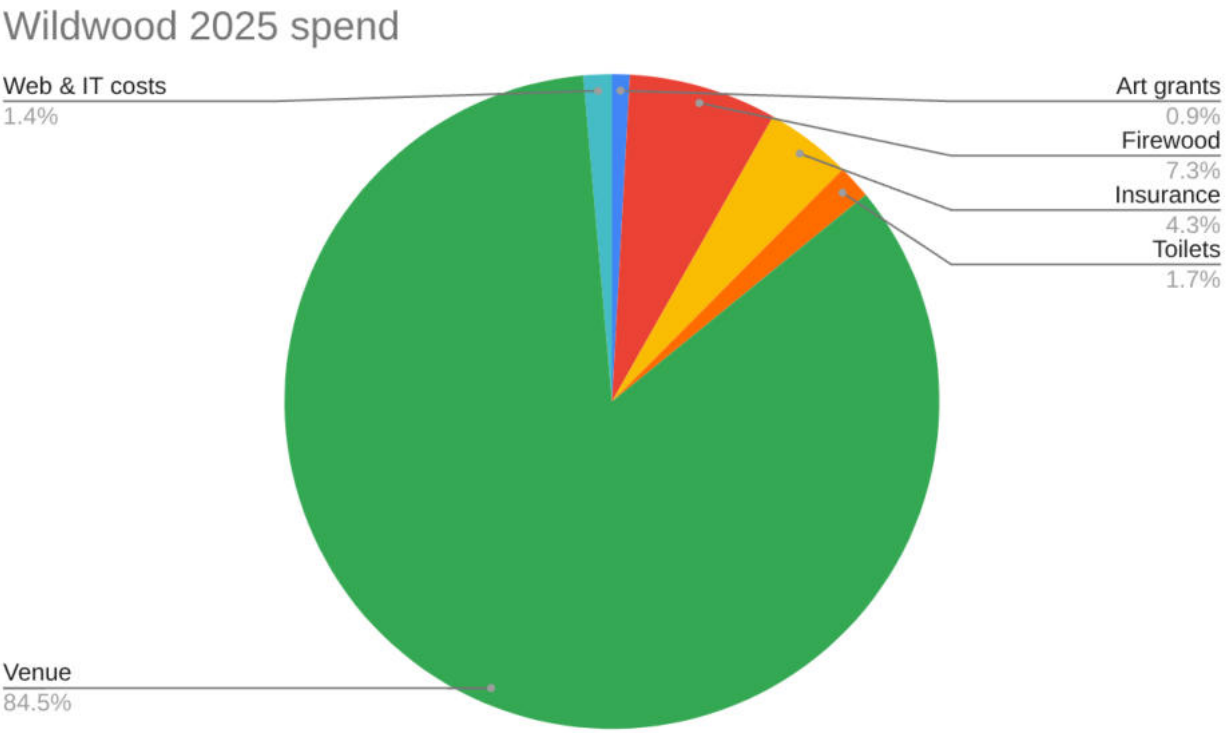
Art grants	£30.98
Firewood	£260.00
Insurance	£151.00
Toilets	£59.58
Venue (inc £500 environmental bond)	£3,000.00
Web & IT costs	£50.19
TOTAL	**£3,551.75**

Income

Reserve from previous year	£602.86*
Ticket income (£55 pp less Stripe fees)	£3,621.95
Venue deposit refund (£500 environmental bond less electricity used for shower)	£492.34
TOTAL	**£4,717.15**

We have £1,165.40 of community money available to put towards next year's event (including covering the £500 environmental bond)

* £11.95 deducted from reported 2023 figure for website domain renewal



LNT Report

Generally a lot better than previous years - well done!

Finds

1. Small patch of black liquid (oil?) spilled on grass, about 2-3m from fire-pit #2
2. In the bar / snug area: small section of fake ivy, a bit of gaffa tape, some plastic packaging (tiny bits) and a sweetie wrapper.
3. In the top end of the camping area: a tea bag and few tiny bits of this and that
4. At the bottom of the hill, along from the showers: a flattened metal foil pastry case
5. At the top of field, under the trees on the other side of the perimeter ‘road’: a green plastic bottle top
6. In the soil between the main fire pit and the benches, a variety of screws, bolts and one metal hinge - presume these were there when we arrived
7. Under the benches round the fire pit: one bit of transparent thin plastic wrapping
8. In the main fire pit: some chicken bones

Not found
Despite a great deal of searching, the lost metal rings that pinged away during the chain maille workshop.

Also not found
Tent pegs, tents, sofas, beer cans, exhausted hippies, bags of trash, discarded food, a sequin-pocalypse.

Thank you!
The Wildwood 2025 LNT team