



Friends of Huntingtree Park

A pleasant environment for all to enjoy

Annual Report April 2023 to March 2024

Charity number 1172700

Aims and Purposes

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time activity in the interests of the social welfare and for the benefit of the inhabitants of Halesowen and the surrounding locality

The Trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and management of the Bowling Green under lease from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Objective

To improve the well-being of the residents of the area by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Huntingtree Park.

The trustees met four times during the year under consideration and when planning activities kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Highlights

July 2023

Thanks to GreenCare horticultural team, we had a fantastic display of wildflowers in a previously unloved corner of the Park along Thornhill Road.



July 2023

The bowling green is an important part of the life of the Park with 50-60 regular bowlers and so the annual trophy competition is eagerly anticipated. Seventeen bowlers entered our 15th annual Trophy competition producing a high standard of bowling throughout four elimination rounds. Kevin Halliday met Eric Leader in a close final With Kevin emerging as the 2023 season holder of the Trophy Shield.



The *Friends* organise a weekly *Exercise and Socialise* group for local residents. Regularly 15-20 people attend to take an exercise walk on the Park led by one of the Health Activators, followed by refreshments and lots of conversation while using craft skills to make items for donation to UK and overseas charities.

September 2023



Once again we were proud to achieve Green Flag status for our lovely park. The Green Flag Award® is an international scheme that recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the standard for recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

November 2023

A Christmas Fair was held in November and a variety of stalls attracted our many supporters to visit the Hub, renew old friendships and spend, raising £300 in the course of the afternoon. This money forms the mainstay of our fundraising and is used to cover essential expenses Public Liability insurance, Lease payment etc..

March 2024

A quiz night was held at Halesowen Athletics Club with around 70 people attending. The event was very successful and raised a total of £307.50 for the Bowling green fund.



Financial Summary

	£	£
Income		
Bowling subs & Donations	2326	
Events/ fundraising	<u>830</u>	
		3156
Expenditure		
Bowling Green lease	250	
Bowling green maintenance	2890	
Printing Stationery & Advertising	45	
Insurance	105	
Sundries	<u>116</u>	
		<u>3406</u>
Deficit for the year		250
Brought forward at 31 Mar 2023		<u>4573</u>
Balance at 31 March 2024		4323

Represented by:

Bowling Green Fund (restricted) £2407

General fund (unrestricted) £1916

Reserves Policy

To maintain a reserve sufficient to cover 12 months typical expenditure.

Trustees for the year under consideration

Alan Hackett (Chair)

Christine Matthews (Vice-Chair)

Jane Matthews (Secretary)

Susan Kirk

Carol Matthews

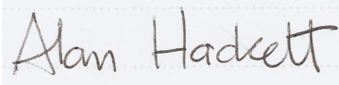
Linda McLennaghan

Kevin Halliday (from March '24)

Conclusion

The Park remains very popular with local residents and people from the wider area receiving positive comments from users on its tidiness and facilities.

At the end of the year under consideration, while the financial reserve was reduced, we still met our target of 12 months typical annual expenditure.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Alan Hadsett" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Chairman