



Friends of Huntingtree Park

A pleasant environment for all to enjoy

Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021

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.

When planning our activities for the year we kept in mind at our trustee meetings, the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities

The first Pandemic lock-down was imposed just before the April start of the 2020 Bowling season with the result that the green had to remain closed until the end of May. As a consequence, a considerable number of our regular bowlers did not take up an annual subscription while waiting to see how the Pandemic situation evolved. This had a significant impact on our financial budget.

We negotiated a reduced maintenance schedule with our Greenkeeper over this period to conserve finances but to be ready for reopening when Government restrictions allowed. Revised restrictions came into force in July 2020 with the limitation of only six players on the green at any time. Bowling subscriptions continued to be low so we appealed for donations to ensure the continuation of the Bowling Green facility.

By these management actions we were able to have limited Bowling for the second half of the season and resume normal Green maintenance over the winter season to ensure a Green in good condition for the start of the 2021 season.

The first lockdown also caused the cancellation of;

- A Craft Fair planned to bring together local residents
- A storytelling morning in May aimed at mothers and toddlers
- Involvement in a National wildlife survey
- A Rounders Club in conjunction with our Health Activators to introduce the sport of Rounders to local children with the aim of entering a Park team in a borough-wide competition
- An additional Picnic bench

- A number of social events to encourage our Bowling community (Quiz night, skittles evening) and raise extra funds for Green maintenance.

The weekly Exercise and Socialise group organised by the *Friends of Huntingtree Park* for local residents to use craft skills to make items for donation to UK and overseas charities could not meet for a large part of the year, as the Park Hub building was closed to allow the Health Activators to be redeployed to support the COVID vaccination scheme.

In the autumn our Green Flag status was renewed for 2020/21 thanks to the unstinting efforts of our voluntary litter-pickers who are on the park early every morning making the park tidy and reporting any problem areas.

Reintroduced restrictions in November 2020 meant that we could still not hold events including a Christmas Fair (usually our most important fundraiser).

Financial Summary

Income	£	£
Fundraising / Donations	120	
Bowling subscriptions	<u>3173</u>	3293
Expenditure		
Bowling Green lease	250	
Bowling green maintenance	2703	
Printing, Stationery, advertising	43	
Sundries	<u>40</u>	<u>3036</u>
Surplus for the year		247
Brought forward at 31 Mar 2020		<u>4445</u>
Balance at 31 March 2021		4702
Represented by:		
Bowling Green Fund (restricted)	£2172	
General fund (unrestricted)	£2530	

Reserves Policy

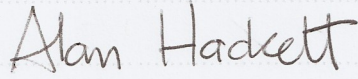
To hold a minimum reserve sufficient to cover 12 months typical expenditure.

Trustees

- 🕒 Alan Hackett (Chair)
- 🕒 Christine Matthews (Vice-Chair)
- 🕒 Jane Matthews (Secretary)
- 🕒 Margaret Bond (Treasurer)
- 🕒 Susan Kirk
- 🕒 Susan Terry Cutler
- 🕒 Linda McLennaghan

Conclusion

We managed to complete the year under consideration having had most of our planned activities cancelled because of COVID restrictions but with overall finances still achieving our target reserve. This puts us in a good position to respond as restrictions get lifted.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background, reading "Alan Hackett".

Chairman