



# Friends of Huntingtree Park

*A pleasant environment for all to enjoy*

## Annual Report April 2022 to March 2023

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

June 2022

Local toddlers including a contingent from the local Day Nursery were invited to the Hub for a morning with a professional storyteller based around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Everyone had fun learning about the Jubilee and some of the special people that help out at the palace. The children made their own crowns and even went on a scavenger hunt.



July 2022

The bowling green is an important part of the life of the Park with 60+ regular bowlers and so the annual trophy competition is eagerly anticipated. In pleasant weather, sixteen bowlers met to contest for the *Friends* Bowling Trophy. Through four rounds, bowlers were progressively eliminated to join the spectators until only Richard Halford and Steve Harris were left to compete in the final. A close match left Richard as the 2022 holder of the Trophy.



The *Friends* organise a weekly *Exercise and Socialise* group for local residents, a number of whom now live alone. 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.

A Christmas Fair was held in November and so after much preparation, a variety of stalls attracted our many supporters to visit the Hub, renew old friendships and spend, raising £500 in the course of the afternoon. This money forms the basis of our fundraising used to cover essential expenses Public Liability insurance, Lease payment etc..

In late autumn our Green Flag status was renewed for 2022/23 due in no small part to the unstinting efforts of our voluntary litter-pickers who are on the park early every morning keeping the park tidy and reporting any areas requiring further attention.

## Financial Summary

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising / Donations	1096	
Bowling subscriptions	<u>2484</u>	
		<u>3580</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Bowling Green lease	250	
Printing Stationery & Advertising	141	
Bowling green maintenance	2859	
Insurance	124	
Sundries	<u>153</u>	
		<u>3527</u>
Surplus for the year		53
Brought forward at 31 Mar 2022		<u>4520</u>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>4573</b>

Represented by:

Bowling Green Fund (restricted)	£2721
General fund (unrestricted)	£1852

## Reserves Policy

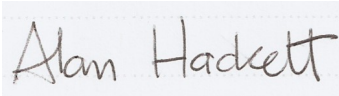
To hold a reserve sufficient to cover 12 months typical expenditure.

## **Trustees** for the year under consideration

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

## **Conclusion**

The year under consideration suffered from reduced numbers using the park and its facilities after eighteen months of successive pandemic disruption. However careful management and reduced activities meant we still maintained our target financial reserve. So from the organisations perspective, the future looks secure.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue rectangular background. The signature reads "Alan Hackett" in a cursive script.

Chairman