

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
From	1	March	2023	To	29	February	2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Little Aston Recreation Ground Association

Other names charity is known by LARGA

Registered charity number (if any) 1051243

Charity's principal address 7 Roman Grange, Roman Road

Little Aston Park

Staffordshire

Postcode B74 3GA

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr David Salter	Chair		Shenstone Parish Council
2	Mrs Jean Wilson			
3	Mrs Ruth Pegler	Treasurer		
4	Mrs Lisa Breeze	Secretary		
5	Mr Charles Fordham			
6	Mrs Lisa Jane Deeming		Resigned 24.9.24	
7	Mr Anthony Power			
8	Mrs Sheila Shaw			
9	Mrs Nicky Hemming	Vice-Chair	Appointed to Vice-Chair on 14.10.24	
10	Mr Paramjit Basi	Vice-Chair	Resigned 24.9.24	
11	Mrs Lynn Tomlinson			
12	Mr Bill Byrne			
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	Lloyds Bank Plc	9 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1QA

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 5 June 1995 as amended 9 October 1995 and 1 April 2017.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association consisting of not less than 10 members not more than 18 members.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in March in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter.

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The following policies and procedures have been adopted:

- Health and Safety advice and Risk Assessment Procedures for volunteer gardeners working at the Recreation Ground.
- Policy and procedures in accordance with the Data Protection Directive as they apply to our small Charity
- Trustee information pack containing good practice guidance notes from the Charity Commission issued to all committee members/trustees
- Guidance for Reclaiming Gift Aid on donations
- Internal Financial Control in line with Charity Commission guidelines
- Code of Conduct
- Equality, diversity and inclusion policy

Management Agreement between LARGA and Shenstone Parish Council agreed in March 2018 for 25-year term.

Liaison continues with Shenstone Parish Council to seek a long-term lease between the Charity and the Council who are the landowners.

## Section C Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The provision and maintenance of a recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of Little Aston and surrounding area.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The focus of our Committee's activities remains the ongoing maintenance and development of the Recreation Ground for the benefit of all age groups who visit and enjoy the various facilities at the site. In order to meet these objectives, we organise fund-raising events throughout the year which serve to promote and foster a local community identity whilst helping us to raise funds to purchase new equipment and develop the landscape.

The trustees of the charity have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and other key aspects of charitable law including their role as trustees.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Our charity is very dependent upon the efforts of our volunteers. We have a well-established team of volunteer gardeners who work closely with the Management Committee and meet twice weekly to carry out various horticultural tasks at the recreation ground. Other members of the group work on different occasions when time permits. The volunteer gardeners are very keen to attract young people and in past years a number of students have completed the volunteering activity for their Duke of Edinburgh awards in a horticultural programme at the recreation ground.

There is also the 'Party in the Park' sub-committee which comprises several trustees together with other volunteers. This team works steadily throughout the year planning and organising our main fund-raising summer event.

During the Covid Pandemic the 'Party in the Park' could not be held and it highlighted our reliance on the funds raised in this way. One of the trustees who joined the Management Committee last year has a lot of experience in fund raising and this will be a focus of the Committee going forward.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year****Party in the Park**

In recent years the Committee have organised a large event during the summer known as 'Party in the Park.' This was originally organised to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 but was so popular and successful that it was repeated every year.

Unfortunately, in financial years 20/21 and 21/22, due to the Covid Pandemic we could not hold the event.

However, 'Party in the Park' resumed in the last financial year and was held again in this financial year and over 2750 people attended a spectacular event helping to raise funds. The local community including several businesses within the locality were involved in making this event another success.

The funds raised have enabled the installation of rubberised safety surfacing under further pieces of play equipment and also to carry out a variety of important maintenance and horticultural tasks at the recreation ground.

**Gift a Tree Scheme**

Some years ago, the Committee established the above scheme whereby members of the local community can donate a tree to either celebrate an event or remember a loved one. This service was established to improve the amenity and appearance of the landscape at the Recreation Ground and has been an ongoing activity. It has proved to be very successful and to date over 200 specimen trees have been planted under the scheme. In order to monitor the development of the landscape, the 'Gift a Tree' scheme was suspended in the year ended 28 February 2019. During this financial period, certain established trees have become available under this scheme now that the landscape has matured.

**Grounds Maintenance**

Our ongoing programme of work has continued successfully this year to ensure that the site remains an attractive facility for local children and families to enjoy.

**Website**

The Charity's website provides comprehensive information about the history of the recreation ground's development and the range of current facilities. It also provides information about how the Trustees manage the charity. The address of the website is [www.larga.co.uk](http://www.larga.co.uk)

**Volunteer Gardener Scheme**

The above scheme initially involved volunteers from the Management Committee but has extended to include other members of the local community. The work undertaken by volunteer gardeners has enabled the committee to improve even further the appearance of the recreation ground and therefore the enjoyment of visitors to the site. The volunteers meet regularly to plan new projects that have included planting

thousands of native wildflowers and bulbs, extending the wild bird friendly hedgerow and planting new borders with plants and shrubs donated by local nurseries. During the year various bulbs were planted, including crocuses, snowdrops and tete a tete. Additional conifers and heathers were also added to the pinetum.

A group of volunteer gardeners meet twice weekly to work at the recreation ground and others carry out work in smaller groups either at weekends or evenings during the summer months. The Trustees are keen to encourage young people to come forward as volunteers and in previous years students have completed Duke of Edinburgh volunteering activity in a horticultural programme at the recreation ground.

#### **Wildlife Educational Area**

The Committee began planning the establishment of a Wildlife Educational Area at the recreation ground some time ago. This involved liaison with The Wildlife Trust and research into other ventures of a similar nature. A range of furniture and interactive equipment was installed to encourage children to learn about and gain an understanding of local wildlife and native flora. The funding for this first stage of the development was provided by the 'Party in the Park' concert held in July 2014. Grant funding was subsequently secured to install further interactive equipment including a specially designed sensory board and five large bespoke information lecterns to inform visitors about local wildlife, trees and flora at the recreation ground and in the local area.

#### **Fields in Trust Award**

As one of over 2,300 'Fields in Trust' registered in the UK the recreation ground was previously (2015) voted its 'Most Improved Fields in Trust Site' in the country. In October of 2016 the recreation ground was also nominated by visitors for the award of Fields in Trust 'Best Park' 2016. This was a tremendous acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of both the trustees of the Executive Committee and volunteers from the local community who have worked to improve the facilities and appearance at the site. The trustees are dedicated to continuing to further improve facilities for the thousands of people of all ages who visit us every year.

The committee have strived during the period to maintain the high standards that led to the above achievements.

#### **Horticultural Developments.**

The landscape of the recreation ground continues to mature and improve each year. A wonderful collection of trees and some of these specimens have been donated by local garden centres and community members who are regular visitors. The trees are maintained by our local volunteers involving some work with pruning in each season. Through using our best horticultural practice to deliver impact in the community at the recreation ground it has been an important year to further enhance the landscape for the benefit of our visitors.

#### **Defibrillator**

In 2018 the Charity installed a community defibrillator, together with an electricity supply, at the recreation ground. This is an important resource

in the event of an emergency, serving both our immediate neighbourhood and the thousands of visitors who come to the recreation ground every year.

**Management Agreement**

In 2019, the Charity negotiated and exchanged a 25-year Management Agreement with the local council. This clarifies our respective roles and responsibilities and provides a degree of security of tenure for both parties.

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

LARGA holds cash reserves of at least £5,000, all of which is unrestricted funds. These funds are held in order to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not Applicable

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.



During the year, the Charity received a small amount of grant funding but the principal source of funds came from the annual 'Party in the Park' event. Also, donations were received from the 'Just Giving' campaign, the Lichfield Lottery, Amazon Smile and from the three donation boxes sited on the recreation ground. We also receive a small annual donation from the ice cream van that visits the recreation ground.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	David Salter	Ruth Pegler
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	15/12/2024	



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name

Little Aston Recreation Ground Association

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

29 February 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1051243

**Set out on pages**

Ten and eleven

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 29/02/2024.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

P. Bulzacchelli

**Date:**

15/12/2024

**Name:**

Paul Bulzacchelli

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

**Address:**

4 Parkside Court

Greenhough Road

Lichfield

WS13 7FE



Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



Charity Name	No (if any)
Little Aston Recreation Ground Association	1051243

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/03/2023		29/02/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants and Donations	4,663	-	-	4,663	5,183
Party in the Park	23,591	-	-	23,591	23,451
Gift Aid	303	-	-	303	695
Gift a Tree	-	-	-	-	-
Ice Cream Van	500	-	-	500	500
Sale of Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	228	-	-	228	9
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>29,285</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,285</b>	<b>29,838</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>29,285</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,285</b>	<b>29,838</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Equipment	23,997	-	-	23,997	4,595
Trees and Shrubs	673	-	-	673	889
Gardener Expenditure	2,970	-	-	2,970	7,380
Maintenance	4,758	-	-	4,758	5,227
Administration and Insurance	1,254	-	-	1,254	197
Miscellaneous	799	-	-	799	760
Donations Paid	-	-	-	-	250
Utilities	406	-	-	406	524
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>34,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,857</b>	<b>19,822</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>34,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,857</b>	<b>19,822</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(5,572)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,572)</b>	<b>10,016</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>44,387</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,387</b>	<b>34,371</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>38,815</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,815</b>	<b>44,387</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	7,424		-
	Bank Deposit Account	31,252	-	-
	Cash	139	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>38,815</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

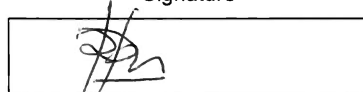

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Ruth Pegler	15/12/24
	David Salter	15/12/24