

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

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FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Registration Number : 1080407

Address of Charity: 139 Mount View Road
Sheffield
S8 8PJ

Trustees:

- C.D. Dewar
- D. Hartlebury
- L. Baxter (appointed 11/09/2023)
- S.R. Chapman
- G.J. Baxter
- B.A. Greatorex
- E.W. Brewin
- S. Whitfield
- P.L. Whitfield (appointed 11/09/2023)
- L.P. Baxter (appointed 11/09/2023)
- P.K. Hobson (appointed 03/10/2023)

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc
1 High Street
Sheffield
S1 2GA

Independent Examiner:

Peter Shield
40 Bartle Road
Sheffield
S12 2QQ

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts which can be found on page 7.

Constitution and Objects

The charity is constituted by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners adopted 7 September 1999 and amended 22 March 2000.

The object of the charity is to assist other trusts with interests in Graves Park in enhancing and maintaining the park for leisure, education and conservation in conjunction with the local community and to preserve the flora and fauna for the benefit and enjoyment of the park users.

The trustees have referred to the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and details of the activities that have taken place during the year can be found later in this report.

Organisational Structure

The trustees who have served the charity during the year are shown on page 1.

Financial Review

The charity had net incoming resources of £4,433 (2023: net incoming resources £5,561). The trustees are aware of their responsibilities and by working closely together are hopeful that future years will reflect a surplus of incoming resources.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover anticipated administration and support costs for a period of 12 months.

Risk Management

The trustees are aware of the operational and financial risks which the charity faces and regularly review those risks to mitigate against any impact they may have on the charity. The major risk facing the charity is the continued support of the individuals and the community in using the facilities and the introduction of the younger generation to provide for the future. The trustees work closely together with members to address these risks.

Investment Policy

The charity does not have an investment policy as such as the trustees feel there are insufficient funds to consider any sort of investment at this time. However, they will continue to monitor this situation and make changes accordingly.

Continued...

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Review of Activities

The trustees have referred to the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the aims and activities and, as a result, the activities described in the chairman's report and the treasurer's report have taken place during the year.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

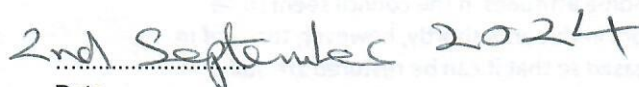
The trustees are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.



Signed - Trustee



Print Name - Trustee



Date

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

AGM 2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Friends of Graves Park's AGM, in our 24th year. We are meeting in Mount View Methodist Church again this year, because we are still unable to meet in the Rose Garden Café, however, we are hopeful that next year we will be back in the café, now that it is fully open again.

Since our last AGM in September 2023, the Friends have been yet again in a whirlwind of activity, trying to protect the park and uphold the will and wish of J. G. Graves.

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All

Our project is drawing to a close after a very successful 18 months of surveys, walks, talks and events. Working with partners, South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group, this project was digging deeper into the history, heritage, ecology, archaeology and local memories of our historic park. Our success in securing support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund by being awarded a grant of £142,770, along with the £5,000 the Friends were able to contribute, has given us an opportunity to pursue our research of Graves Park. We were able to involve the community in the project and all feedback from those involved has been very positive. The new maps, of the heritage, trees and wildlife in Graves Park have been very well received and we are so pleased with being able to produce these at last. We are also able to produce new noticeboards for the park, which will be erected in the next couple of months. We have a film of the project, as well as little videos, an interactive map on Sky Maps and photogrammetry on Sketchfab, which displays detailed models of features in the park. All the results of our project will eventually be online on our website, for everybody to access. Another of the outcomes will be reports compiled from the results of all the information we have amassed, which will eventually, we hope, further protect Graves Park.

Himalayan Balsam

The Balsam has been cleared this year by volunteers from "Riverlution", advised by Professor Ian Rotherham.

Rose Garden Café Restoration

Since the last AGM, the Council's Charity Subcommittee voted for a partnership to be set up between the Friends, the Save the Rose Garden Café Group and Sheffield City Council, with an independent chair appointed. All this is now in place and the Partnership is actively working towards the restoration of the building. The Friends are attending regular meetings, with 3 of us in attendance.

Working on Chantreyland Meadow and the Arboretum

This year's report is similar to last year's however, some attitudes in the council seem to be moving. Our volunteers will update you on their work in this area shortly, however, those of us trying to get the next section of the arboretum released so that it can be restored are still struggling against the will of some council officers in Sheffield City Council. Since last year, we have formally contacted the Charity Commission about the council's refusal to release this section and about their use of the site, because they are still using it as a waste disposal collection site and council depot.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

AGM 2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Charity Commission has at long last started to ask questions and has stated that SCC may be in breach of trust. Committee members have also met with Tom Hunt, Leader of the Council and we have met Councillor Fran Belbin at the Nursery Site. We have also met with the current leader of the Charity Subcommittee, Councillor Richard Williams. We have attended the meetings of the Charity Sub-committee, asking regular questions and by taking regular photographs to show just how empty it is. We have also continued to ask questions via the Freedom of Information procedure and will continue to pursue this until we finally get this situation resolved. This will include continuing to inform the Charity Commission of inconsistencies in the responses to them by Sheffield City Council. Our constant pressure appears to be working and hopefully eventually we will be successful and work can start on the restoration of the next section. We will keep you posted.

Land Disposals in Graves Park

The disposal by SCC of the tennis courts in Graves Park, on a 25 year lease, was voted through by the Charity Subcommittee last year. Since then, the Friends have written to the Charity Commission to complain about this, as a 25 year lease is contrary to the conveyance and its benefit to the Graves Park trust, as the lease is part of the Hillsborough Park initiative, is difficult to see. Once again, SCC is selling, disposing of or privatising bits of Graves Park, this time along with 8 other parks, 4 of which are charitable. One of the results of this approval was that the Friends of Hillsborough Park decided to disband.

In the summer, the Friends were informed that SCC wanted to lease the cricket pitch, on the south side of the park by Charles Ashmore entrance, to a group who wanted to apply for funds to improve the cricket pavilion there. The Friends have to object to this, as once again it is the issuing of leases for parts of the park. Once again it puts charitable parkland at risk. The Charity Subcommittee agreed to postpone the decision until the Friends have had the opportunity to meet with the cricket group. Of course the Friends have absolutely no objection to the group playing cricket in Graves Park, in fact we welcome it, however, we do not accept that the land has to be leased and from what we have heard from the group themselves, they do not want a lease, just a licence to play cricket there. The Friends will continue to follow this up, with a view to protecting yet more parkland from disposal. We hope to meet with the group in the near future.

The Friends will continue to make Freedom of Information requests and we will continue to inform the Charity Commission of the activities of the trustee, until we are able to reach a position where the parkland is safe.

"Restoration" of the Pack Horse Bridge

Since last year, the Pack Horse Bridge has been properly restored.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

AGM 2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Retirement from the Committee of Ernest Brewin

One of our stalwart supporters and long serving committee members, Ernest Brewin, is standing down from the committee, after many years of dedicated service to the Friends of Graves Park. He has been a valued and important member of our committee for so many years, organising the volunteers in the restoration and maintenance of Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum, as well as using his considerable expertise to draw up plans for each section, as the need arises. Ernest will continue as a member of the Friends and will continue with his work in Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum. His valued wisdom on the committee will be much missed, although I am sure we will still be able to ask him for advice (and a cup of tea!) whenever needed in the future. Thank you Ernest, for your hard work, dedication and support over the years.

There are many opportunities for any of you who have skills or an interest in local history, horticulture/gardening, trees, wildlife, applying for grants or campaigning (or any other skills or interests you think might help us). We desperately need members to join our committee (we really need a secretary) or offer your services as a volunteer. Please do get in touch if you think you can help us.

Finally, yet again thank you to all our members, for the continued support, the generous donations and the campaigning over the past 12 months. We are still one of the largest friends' groups in Sheffield. We will continue to work towards ensuring that Graves Park is protected permanently for the benefit of all the citizens of Sheffield.

Caroline D. Dewar
27th August 2024

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

AGM TREASURER'S REPORT

Financially speaking, the year to March 2024 was dominated by the Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All project which was supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Awarded in December 2022, the grant totalled £142,770 with Friends of Graves Park contributing another £5000. We claim the money in stages and it passes through our accounts as we pay for the corresponding project costs.

Our bank account also holds money for the restoration of the Rose Garden Café. These donations are ring-fenced for the café restoration.

At the end of the financial year our bank account stands at £25,647, of which £9,888 is ring-fenced for the Rose Garden Café. £64,372 of National Lottery Heritage Fund grant has been received to the end of the financial year.

Our long-standing treasurer Barbara Greateorex retired from the treasurer position this year but is still an active trustee. I'd like to thank Barbara for her many years of carefully managing the finances.

As we move into the new financial year we have transitioned to electronic banking which will make everything a bit simpler and easier for everyone.

Thanks are due to Peter Shield for preparing the audited accounts.

Lee Baxter
Treasurer, Friends of Graves Park

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above named charity (registered no. 1080407) for the year ended 31 March 2024, set out on pages 5 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 Trustees' accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give 'a true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

.....
Peter Shield

.....
Date

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024


	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unres- tricted Funds</u>	<u>Desig- nated Funds</u>	<u>Res- tricted Funds</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>Income and Endowments</u>						
Membership fees and donations		2,974			2,974	4,448
Gift Aid		628			628	503
Just Giving		22		2,369	2,391	5,364
Easy Fundraising/Amazon/Paypal		65			65	105
Rose Garden Cafe fundraiser		500			500	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	2	-	142,770		142,770	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>4,189</u>	<u>142,770</u>	<u>2,369</u>	<u>149,328</u>	<u>10,420</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Rose Garden Café surveyor and feasibility		210			210	3,420
Printing, postage and stationery		669			669	862
Insurance		191			191	191
Website		632			632	105
Meeting expenses		80			80	-
Just Giving		216			216	216
Sundries		127			127	65
National Lottery Heritage Fund	2	-	142,770		142,770	-
					-	
Total Expenditure		<u>2,125</u>	<u>142,770</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,895</u>	<u>4,859</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,064	-	2,369	4,433	5,561
Fund balances brought forward		13,695	-	7,519	21,214	15,653
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		<u>15,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,888</u>	<u>25,647</u>	<u>21,214</u>

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		22,319	21,214
Debtor	2	78,398	-
		<u>100,717</u>	<u>21,214</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditor	2	<u>75,070</u>	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		25,647	21,214
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>25,647</u>	<u>21,214</u>
FINANCED BY:			
Unrestricted Funds		15,759	13,695
Designated Funds	2	-	-
Restricted Funds - Rose Garden Café	3	9,888	7,519
		<u>25,647</u>	<u>21,214</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:


 Signed - Trustee

Caroline Dewar - Chairman


 Signed - Trustee

Lee Baxter - Treasurer

2nd September 2024
 Date

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) and the Financial reporting Standard (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees have a reasonable expectation the Trust has adequate reserves to continue in operation existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts.

b) Income Recognition

Income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when they are received.

c) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants are recognised when they are approved and the intention has been communicated to the recipient.

2 DESIGNATED FUND NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

Debtor - Deferred income	£78,398
Creditor - Defferred expenditure	£75,070

The charity has been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £142,770, to run the project "Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All":exploring the history, heritage, ecology, archaeology and local memories of Graves Park. As at the balance sheet date £64,372 has been received with a further £78,398 to be received. Grant money expended so far amounts to £67,770, with a further £75,070 expected to be spent.

The project is scheduled to continue until the end of September 2024.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 RESTRICTED FUND ROSE GARDEN CAFÉ

The purpose of this fund is to provide resources to facilitate the restoration of the Rose Garden Café to its former glory.

The Friends of Graves Park are working in a Partnership with the Save the Rose Garden Café Group and Sheffield City Council, to restore and fully reopen the café. The Friends have agreed to allow funds within our bank account for this restoration.