

ANNUAL REPORT OF BIDDULPH IN BLOOM 2023/24

The registered and only name is Biddulph in Bloom
The Registered Charity No is 1109447
The Registered Address for Charity purposes is
Biddulph Town Hall
High Street
Biddulph
ST8 6AR

Trustees:

Chairperson: Lesley Drumm
Vice Chairperson: Helen Wilshaw
Honorary Treasurer: Katharina Archer
Honorary Secretary: Sarah Bradley

Our Constitution was adopted on the 22nd January 1998 and our Model Constitution was taken from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers for Affiliated Groups. We have been members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers for Affiliated Groups since 1991. The Trustees may make any member a Trustee to fill a vacancy that arises, that Trustee would then be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. Members if they wish to be a Trustee would be considered by the Executive Committee and the outcome determined by a majority vote. The entire Executive stands down annually at our Annual General Meeting and are then re-elected by the membership.

In January 2018 we adopted a change to our Constitution, but this was rejected by the Charity Commission. At our AGM on 29th January 2020 our original constitution and the clause regarding assets was unanimously readopted with no objections or dissensions.

At our AGM on 11th January 2023 the membership unanimously elected Lesley Drumm as Chair, Sarah Bradley as Honorary Secretary and Katharina Archer as Honorary Treasurer. Also, Joan Tyndall, was elected Vice-Chair by the membership; however, she later resigned from this position. At a special meeting on 2nd June 2023 Helen Roberts was then elected Vice-Chair by membership to hold office until the next AGM. During 2023 three of our trustees resigned, Wendy Rowley, Jean Nixon and Geoff Tyndall. Sarah Bradley was appointed as a Trustee at an extraordinary meeting on 26th July 2023. Helen Wilshaw was co-opted as a Trustee and her appointment was ratified at the AGM on 17th January 2024. At the last AGM the membership acknowledged the retirement of our Patron, Judge David Fletcher, and unanimously elected Lesley Drumm as Chair, Helen Wilshaw as Vice-Chair, Sarah Bradley as Honorary Secretary and Katharina Archer as Honorary Treasurer. The Charity and its management have remained in a stable position throughout the year apart from changes to the position of Vice-Chair.

Financial Review

The Charity usually keeps a small reserve; however, due to financial pressures on our community with the increase in mortgage rates and inflation, the Charity felt it wise to be prudent with expenditure in 2022. Despite the hardships encountered by our community we still received generous donations and support throughout 2022 and, therefore, we ended the year with a larger carry forward and started our financial year from February 2023 with a balance of approximately £40,000 in our main account. A significant proportion of the carry forward was from donations that were dedicated to a memorial Health and Wellbeing Garden in honour of our Founder, Hilda Sheldon. The Memorial Garden is still in the planning stage, and we are waiting for agreement from Town, District and County Councils on the use of some land for the project. The Charity also holds a Legacy Fund of approximately £35,000, from which a significant proportion has been set aside for maintenance work on the land we were gifted from Your Housing. This land has been used by the Charity for several years but requires a significant amount of work to provide adequate access to vehicles and to make the land suitable for planting and general use.

For this financial year our Legacy account is held by the Hanley Economic Building Society and we opened an account with the Cooperative Bank in July 2023 to hold our main funds that are used for the day-to-day management of the Charity. Most of our funding, particularly from grants, is used to purchase materials and equipment to meet the aims of the Charity, some of these funds are used to pay self-employed help to manage the heavy work that our volunteers are unable to do and for specialist advice. We do not employ any staff.

The Honorary Treasurer, Katharina Archer, manages the finances on a day-to-day basis and reports back to the Chair and the Trustees to ensure that the objectives set by trustees are met. BK Plus (Chartered Certified Accountants), Tunstall Road, Biddulph will undertake the examination of our accounts for this year.

Trustees are aware of their responsibilities and obligations, and although they have not undertaken any formal training set by the Charity, they are trained in a diverse range of subject areas from previous and current employment. Trustees work hard to keep up to date with any new legislation and publications that are required to fulfil their role to a high standard. Policies and, Health and Safety risk assessments are carried out where necessary and updated annually or earlier if required. All volunteers receive a copy of the Health and Safety rules and sign to confirm receipt and acknowledgement. Training is undertaken ad hoc where necessary and all volunteers adhere to instructions to ensure their safety. The Charity is also compliant with data protection requirements.

The Charity's objectives are to conserve the environment mainly using volunteers for the benefit of the public and to encourage the public in the practice of conservation. The Charity encourages the local community to value its assets such as trees, shrubs, garden areas, seats and benches. The local community appreciate and respect the work of the Charity, and this is reflected in the feedback both in person and through social media. Our volunteers dedicate thousands of hours each year to achieve the aims and objectives of the Charity, which include keeping our local

environment tidy and free of rubbish through targeted maintenance such as litter picking, weeding our streets and garden areas, planning and maintaining floral displays. We have a programme of tree planting and in 2022 we introduced wild meadow areas to encourage the conservation and sustainability of local wildlife habitats. This year our objective was stability and, therefore, most of our expenditure has been used to maintain existing projects and deliver our twice-yearly planting schemes that decorate the town.

Successes

During 2023 we have held fundraising events such as Pancake Day, our Open Gardens and Cuppa and a Cake. These events are appreciated by the local community and give our citizens the opportunity to get together in celebration of the Charity and its objectives. Unfortunately, we have not entered the Heart of England In Bloom competition this year, as our gardening volunteers have depleted, but we have maintained all our projects to a high standard and continued our renovation of seats, benches and planters, and our programme of tree planting. The Charity has also joined forces with a local primary school to deliver a programme of bulb planting that will bloom in spring 2024. We have also enhanced our social media presence with the help of Helen Wilshaw, to engage the local community and encourage more volunteers to keep the Charity going for future generations. We have also set up WhatsApp groups for our volunteer gardeners to communicate any arrangements to meet up, planned works or to vote on day-to-day decisions, and a Trustee group to discuss matters when it is not convenient to meet up physically. All our online resources are supported by other methods of communication for those of our volunteers and members that do not wish to use the internet. Our final project was the development of the Charity's website, which has now been published on the internet. The Charity continues to provide a beautiful, clean and environmentally safe place for its local community.

Objectives for Next Year

The Charity's objectives next year are to maintain the status quo, focus on the renovation of our land, progress the memorial project and encourage the appointment of more volunteers.

At the end of this financial year, we carry forward the sum of approximately £46,500 in our main account and £36,300 in our Legacy account. A significant amount of the carry forward is funds raised towards our Memorial Garden project. After consultation with the donor's family, we also aim to start using our Legacy fund for the renovation of our land and the purchase of some IT equipment in the coming financial year.

Written by the Honorary Treasurer of Biddulph in Bloom - Katharina Archer

Signed:



Dated: 27th September 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

For the year 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024

2023	Receipts		2024	2023	Payments	2024
37,794.81	Balance at 01/02/23	Restricted funds	34,660.24	157.00	Insurance	157.00
13,282.94	Balance at 01/02/23	Current	40,676.19	-	Accountancy	300.00
				-	Legal fees	1,528.90
	Grant Aid:					
41,172.00	Biddulph Town Council		25000.00	7,635.00	Plants	14,306.92
				1,365.79	Materials & repairs	1,946.95
	Staffs Moorlands D.C. Grants					
-	Staffs Moorlands D.C.		5500.00			
2,000.00	S.M.D.C - I Lawson		0.00	18,387.00	Help - Watering & Heavy Work	15,082.50
450.00	S.M.D.C - J Redfern		0.00	-	Planters and baskets	-
520.00	S.M.D.C - T Hall		0.00	5,542.80	Equipment - Water bowser	-
	Gifts and donations:				Legacy costs (restricted funds)	
				-	Planters	-
6,021.00	Memorial Gifts		2580.20	2,750.00	Trees & Shrubs	-
-	A D Coaches sponsorship		300.00			
-	Jean Jackson & Line Dancers		200.00			
5,265.67	Business & Private Donations		1655.81	137.88	Advertisements	504.40
				130.77	Stationery	228.21
				280.00	Sundries	232.46
	Events:				Events:	
1,465.00	Pancake Day		1965.74	-	Pancake Day	6.00
2,162.80	Open Garden		2262.70	-	Open Garden	-
546.08	Cuppa, cake & chat		548.07	120.00	Cuppa, cake & chat	25.55
365.43	Interest Restricted funds account		1652.00			
47.87	Interest Current account		157.01	34,660.24	Balance at 31/01/24	Petty cash 150.00
749.07	Gift Aid		-	40,676.19	Balance at 31/01/24	Restricted funds 36,312.24
						Current 46,376.83
111,842.67		Total	117,157.96	111,842.67	Total	117,157.96

BIDDULPH IN BLOOM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Monetary Assets		General Account
	Current Account	46,377
	Restricted Fund Account	36,312
	Petty cash	150
		<u>82,839</u>
Prepayments		<u>3,000</u>
Liabilities	Accountancy	<u>300</u>

Non Monetary Assets

For use by the charity and belonging to the General Purposes Fund

Street furniture (including sculpture, seats and planters)

Various small hand tools

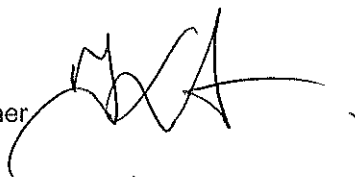
Water Bowser

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are monies received to be used for the purchase of perennial plants, trees and shrubs to replenish damaged stock and costs for new projects

Signed:
Mrs K. H. Archer

Dated:


20/11/2024

BIDDULPH IN BLOOM
YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024
ANNUAL GENERAL ACCOUNT

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Biddulph in Bloom

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Biddulph in Bloom for the year ended 31 January 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 3.

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 Act. 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.

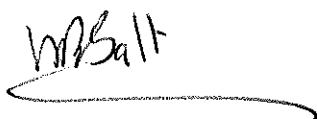
Independent examiner's statement

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 Trust 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.

Signed:



Dated : 21st November 2024

K R Salt FCCA
Independent Examiner

BK Plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Adventure Place
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 3AF