

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales · Charity number 1169132

Details

Other names FOAP

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-09-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 27 Birch Grove
Aberdare
CF44 8DD

Phone 07711107839

Email FOABERDAREPARK@GMAIL.COM

Website <https://foaberdarepark.com/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF TRECYNON, ABERDARE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT") TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION, SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ABERDARE PARK.

Activities: FRIENDS OF THE PARK ARE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING WITH RCTCBC TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES AND ORGANISE OR HELP TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN ABERDARE PARK.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Rhondda Cynon Taff

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£34,607	£30,833	-	-
2023-12-31	£12,054	£18,438	-	-
2022-12-31	£17,811	£3,720	-	-
2021-12-31	£31,121	£55,240	-	-
2020-12-31	£264,150	£254,633	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PHILIP REES	Chair	2017-06-14
ANN CRIMMINGS		2017-07-20
Jayne Jones		2023-04-14
SHARON LYNNE REES		2017-06-14

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1169132

Accounts

Friends of Aberdare Park. Chairperson's Annual Report 2024.

Many thanks to the core members of Friends of Aberdare for the support over the last year.

The biggest project we completed in the last year was the installation of solar panels on the roof of the hub building at the splashpad. The panels are a big asset towards our running costs for the pad.

Thanks to Jayne for her measuring expertise to help us kick start the project.



Since February 2024 the original waterplay company we were sealing with has merged with another company and the new company is called "The SPLASH".

We had some difficulty in developing a working relationship with the new company as their approach was very different from Waterplay Solutions. We have however decided to stay with them as their quotes were more competitive in a market that has few providers.

We have employed them to commission the Splashpad for next year and to install two new pieces of apparatus that have been donated by Pennant Walters.

The Splashpad opened later last year due to the work at the Hub. We did as usual give exclusive use to schools in the run up to the summer holidays. This was very well received.

We delivered quiet sessions for children with additional needs in a different way this summer. We worked with a group of parents who preferred to run the sessions in a more inclusive way and this seemed to work well.

We struggle to get volunteers to help but my thanks to those who have continued with their support.

Regards,

Philip Rees. Chair, FOAP.



Friends of Aberdare Park – Accounts 2024

Accounts Summary – Friends of Aberdare Park - 2022			
Date	Type	Debit	Credit
1 January 2024	Opening Balance		£27,087.29
Income			
	Grants		£34,532.98
	Donations/Fundraising		£74.30
Expenditure			
	Splashpad running costs	£30,833.07	
31 December 2024	Closing Balance		£30,861.50



Friends of Aberdare Park – Accounts 2024

Accounts Summary – Friends of Aberdare Park - 2022			
Date	Type	Debit	Credit
1 January 2024	Opening Balance		£27,087.29
Income			
	Grants		£34,532.98
	Donations/Fundraising		£74.30
Expenditure			
	Splashpad running costs	£30,833.07	
31 December 2024	Closing Balance		£30,861.50

I have examined the documents and receipts provided by the committee of Friends of Aberdare Park and confirm that the above statement for the year ended 31st December is in accordance with the information provided.

D. Dutton
28/10/24

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1169132

Accounts



Friends of Aberdare Park – Accounts 2023

Accounts Summary – Friends of Aberdare Park - 2022			
Date	Type	Debit	Credit
3 January 2023	Opening Balance		£33,471.34
Income			
	Grants		£8,400.00
	Donations/Fundraising		£3,653.93
Expenditure			
	Splashpad running costs	£18,437.98	
11 December 2023	Closing Balance		£27,087.29

Friends of Aberdare Park. Chairperson's annual report 2023.

I am very grateful for the core members of Friends of Aberdare Park. The three bears designed by a brilliant tree artist was the most popular item of the year. Thanks to Ann Crimmings and those that helped to fund it.



Last Easter event was well organised by Liz and Co. There were crowds of families with the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade proving to be very popular.

The RCT events went well even if the weather wasn't good. Thanks to the Café & boats team with Billy setting up various activities. Friends set up bric a brac books & toys tables to raise money.

The Splash pad opened in May with good weather bringing in crowds through June. At the end of July heavy wet weather knocked out the visits. The school visits at the end of term were successful. Thanks to Sharon for organising the visits.

The idea of putting Solar Panels on the pool building put a lot of work Jayne's way in planning for them. This entailed visits from Solar Panel Companies, the Council departments involved and grant applications being made. We are close to completion on the project with the Planning Application in and hopefully the panels being installed by the time the Splashpad reopens for the season.

We are again asking people to volunteer to help at the Splash Pad for a few hours every week from May to September.

We have achieved a lot during the year but it has been a struggle at times particularly getting volunteers for the Splashpad.

We would like to focus now on other projects in the Park in the coming year to enhance what truly is a jewel in Aberdare's Crown.

Philip Rees. Chair.

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1169132

Accounts

Friends of Aberdare Park.

Chairman's Annual Report 2022.



Welcome to my Annual Report for 2022.

Our first activity of the year was in support Liz who always puts on a fantastic event for family days at Easter. The Easter Egg Hunt was, as usual, very successful despite our members having to run their legs off getting to various places where the toy eggs had been taken. Many thanks to our athletes!

I think following the last two years we have learnt a thing or two and this year it should be plain sailing. The Easter hat competition went very well in the sunshine with many excellent entries making the judges task very difficult. The next event was the official opening of the Splashpad and what a lovely day it was.

Our MS Vikki Howells praised our efforts before cutting the ribbon. Cllr Gareth Jones read our MP's message. Singers from Cwmdare voices and Croeso Boys entertained our guests. Many thanks to them and to Jayne for her specially composed anthem for the Splashpad. I am not sure how impressed our guests were with our Trustees dressed in Victorian swimming attire!

Raising donations: Many thanks to the pubs, shops and hairdressers for their donation boxes. Thanks to Gareth Jones from the weekly shows he puts on in the Trecynon Hall. This raised a lot in welcome donations.

A special praise must go to Ann Crimmings for filling hundreds of bags of bird seed to sell by Liz in the park café. We also raised much needed funds by bucket collections in and around the splashpad by the users of the Pad. We also came into the 21st Century by using bar code payments for those who no longer carry cash.

We sold a variety of things at a stall at the Aberdare Festival in the Park in June and hope to do the same this year. I want to thank the few volunteers who spent time to supervise the Pad. We need many more to help in the coming years to help us raise the money to keep the Splashpad operational.

In the next month I will need help to prepare the Splashpad before the Splashpad team arrive to re-erect the sprays etc.

Regards, Philip Rees Chair FOA



Friends of Aberdare Park – Accounts

Accounts Summary – Friends of Aberdare Park - 2022			
Date	Type	Debit	Credit
10 January 2022	Opening Balance		£19,380.37
Income			
	Grants		£11,500.00
	Duck food sales		£597.30
	Donations		£5713.67
Expenditure			
	Splashpad running costs	£3720.00	
9 December 2022	Closing Balance		£33,471.34

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1169132

Accounts

Friends of Aberdare Park.

Chairperson's Report for 2021.

Last year was an exciting year for Friends of Aberdare Park. We accomplished our main ambition of building a splash pad to replace the defunct paddling pool. We had the support of RCT Council, the officers who helped us to furnish the legalities of the project and the Parks officers who enhanced the WPS design by extending and improving the grass bank area, the tarmac surround and the benches. I would also extend thanks to Richard Harrison (WPS) and his team working through some horrid weather and COVID to build the pad.

There are so many to thank for this fabulous feature in our stunning Park. Firstly, I must thank our Project Team who kept up the drive to success, (Jayne, Ann, Adrian and Sharon R) as well as our FOAP members for the work they put in to raising funds.

I want to thank our prime funders including Penycymoedd Wind Farm Fund and The Welsh Church Act

Thanks also to the businesses in the Cynon Valley as well as individuals and groups for their donations.

At the start of 2021, the Splash Pad was completed and ready for the summer. The Davies Bros Ltd then started working on the building. Their initial plan was to redecorate the 2 changing rooms and convert one toilet into a changing place for the disabled, the other toilet to be a unisex toilet. We were fortunate that the Local Authority allocated the funding for the Changing Places Facility, which is under their remit, allowing us to invest in the exterior of the building,

We opened the Pad in June under Covid restrictions to invited guests. We held three very successful sessions. On 1st July we had the first of a series of school visits. Each visited in their bubbles and gave us a great opportunity to see what running the splash pad would entail on a day to day basis. It was an absolute delight to see the pleasure on so many children's faces after going through so many restrictions and not being able to go on school trips.

Thanks to Adrian for organising the private session for young people with special needs that went successfully on Friday 27th July.

I must give huge thanks to Billy and his assistants for maintaining the splash pad area and checking the chemical balance of the sprays. We had a few problems along the way. My favourite problem was on the last Saturday when the apparatus failed to work at the 10 am start. We had users ready to enjoy the sprays. Billy could see that WPS guys had set the calendar to stop the sprays working ready for decommissioning. What could we do? I phoned Richard (WPS) for help. Billy was able to solve the problem with Richard's advice.

The kiosk was a very popular feature with the users. On hot days the splash pad visitors were very grateful for the lovely ice creams on sale.

Because of the Covid Pandemic it has been impossible to organise the events that Sharon Phillips had pencilled in. So we intend to look at Easter for a start in the coming year. Despite this we have had Gareth Jones' Socials in the Trecynon Hall donating

substantial amounts regularly. Many thanks to Gareth and the locals who have contributed.

I would also like to thank Liz who provides us with a good income stream through the sale of duck food. I must not forget Ann who spends her valuable spare time in packing it !

Adrian has decided to relinquish the role of Treasurer and Trustee. He has been an important cog in the FOAP wheel. He has kept me on my toes many times. He has put in so much effort to make FOAP a successful organisation. Adrian was an integral lead in the success of the parkrun every Saturday at 9 am. It brings in visitors from far and wide. Many thanks Ade.

Another of our trustees, Sherryll Davies has decided to step down, Sherryll is a talented photographer who raised several thousands pounds for Friends, her stunning photographs have shown the beauty of Aberdare Park attracting visitors from near and far. Thanks Sherryll.

We have also lost the support of RCT Park officer, Marie Fowler, who has moved to another job. Marie was our link with the RCT crew in Aberdare Park. Many thanks for her ideas and encouragement.

I must inform you, if you haven't heard that one of our main supporters has passed away, Geoff Evans, a leading local historian. He wrote the Aberdare Park booklet and enjoyed leading groups around the park on a history walks on Sunday. He was prominent in the Park 150th anniversary celebrations in 2019 as well as the exhibition in the Museum.

We now have a new year to look forward to and I am hoping that we can get back to near normal in 2022 so that we can re-light our aims to bring the Park back to life with activities. I know that our members have many ideas for improving the Park and giving pleasure to the many people who visit it. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Philip Rees,
Chair.

Friends Of Aberdare Park

Charitable Incorporated Organisation .

Charity Commission Number 1169132

Accounts for 2021 Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December
2021

Opening Balance	43,499.69
-----------------	-----------

INCOME

Grants/Donations	23405.06
------------------	----------

Fundraising	1081.44
-------------	---------

Birdfood Sales	1634.00
----------------	---------

Refund of Deposit from

RCT Council	5000.00
-------------	---------

TOTAL INCOME	31,120.50
--------------	-----------

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	55239.82
-------------------	----------

THEREFORE ANNUAL LOSS FOR 2021	24119.32
--------------------------------	----------

Therefore CLOSING BALANCE which agrees exactly with the bank balance	19380.37
---	----------

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
GRANTS AND DONATIONS	23405	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	46167
FUNDRAISING	1081	FUNDRAISING EXPENDITURE	930
BIRDFOOD SALES	1634	INSURANCE	1966
REFUND OF BOND, RCT	<u>5000</u>	MAINTENANCE	<u>6178</u>
DEFICIT FOR YEAR	31120 24121		55241
	<u>55241</u>		<u>55241</u>

I have prepared the above account from an examination of the accounting records and supporting invoices and vouchers. From my examination and the explanations where required from the Trustees, I am satisfied that they represent a true record for the year ended 31st December 2021.


Richard Evans

21st October 2022

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1169132

Accounts

Friends of Aberdare Park.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2019.

The year 2019 has been a fantastic year for Friends of Aberdare Park.

We had been planning for 2019 from January 2018.

We had two aims. 1. to work hard to raise money for the Splash pad after the disappointment from the Lottery. 2. to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Aberdare Park.

As Chairperson I must congratulate all the Friends who supported us, working extremely hard to bring Aberdare Park alive.

Of course we must not forget the Council Staff who love this Park as much as we do. The splendid floral displays. The new information boards were great and the Green Flag Award was well deserved. Marie, please take our congratulations to the Park staff for all their work.

The parkrun has been a huge success especially when acknowledging the Remembrance day and the Father Christmas run. The Bryn Sion carollers were brilliant. My thanks to Ian their minister.

The parkrun has livened the Park every Saturday Morning. Well done to Adrian for his efforts along with the team and the Dragons Running Club. Do not forget our original trustees who trained to be volunteers to run the parkrun.

If I can go back to Marie. We were pleased to support her efforts to interest adults and children in nature in the Park. - RSPB Birdwatch, Bat Watch, Bug Life and butterfly surveys. We are proud of support your efforts. We did try the gardening project, but it's in limbo at the moment.

Early on the Fashion Show at Trina's was very successful. Thanks to Sharon R, Sharon P and Wendy.

The Royal Visit was declined, but may be considered for 2020.

The selling of duckfood has been fantastically successful thanks to Jayne getting it going, Ann for packing loads of bags and Liz for selling it in the Cafe.

I saw in 2018, the seagulls picking off the little ducklings on the lake. Last summer, the seagulls had gone because they don't like duckfood and the six little ducklings have grown to adulthood.

Friends of Aberdare Park made a real effect at the Spring Holidays with our Egg Hunt. Liz, of course, provided the attractions. It was very successful event with so many children taking part, we had to reload the eggs several times. It was a joyous event. Many thanks especially for Rob as a Rabbit and Wendy's photos and Rob was some other creature in the Dino event!

Another outstanding event was the opening of the Display board at the back of the café facing the Fountain. The Display was created by Marie, Geoff Evans with some help from the Friends and paid for by the Museum. Roy Noble pulled the drapes.

We invited two people to be our Patrons, Roy Noble and Vikki Howells our AM. Both accepted.

The Stall at the Abedare Festival was exceptionally successful spreading our aims for the SplashPad. Those friends who participated were brilliant. I must name Alan Evans, Alun Evans and Randall Mathieson from the Ynysllwyd Allotments for donating the huge amount of flowers and plants. Ann and Geraint's bean planting was a great idea. Stan and Gareth's sales pitch worked well. We had the best stall by miles!

Okay. I know that you are waiting in awe for the next events that took 4 months out of my life

Saturday 13th July. The Concerts.

It was made easier because of the organisational skills of Mike Thomas, a dear friend of mine and the support of the Police that made the events so successful.

There were two outstanding concerts. My thanks to the Victorian Ladies who missed most of the fun serving the crowds. a brass band, a jazz band, 8 choirs, one wonderful singer, two MPs from 1860, a football club, a gymnastic club, St John's first aiders, police exhibition, the Fire Brigade and more. A fantastic event.

Two appearances on TV on ITWales news and S4C Heno.

September 15th. The Good Old Days.

Again, I relied on the talents of two special people to put on a wonderful experience of fun, music and magic. Nathan Jones (Musical Director) and Derek Williams (Stage Manager) created an unforgettable show. Thanks to everyone who went on stage and the support of our members.

I must thank Mary and Sheryll for helping me rescue the Calendar Competition which was another great success, despite the printer error.

I want to also thank Sheryll Davies for raising in excess of £3000 by putting her creative skills to work by producing place mats, Xmas cards and baubles, mugs, scarves etc. An amazing effort.

Our events climaxed with the Christmas party at the Oasis arranged by Sharon and co. It was a very enjoyable event.

Lastly, Debra's decoration of the Christmas Tree at St Fagan's Church was classic with a Victorian theme.

This coming year is another exciting one with hopes that we will have our splashpad and we will all be working to make 2020 another super year. The next few weeks the splashpad group are working extremely hard to succeed in a major project.

If I have missed out anyone, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Philip.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2020.

2020 has been a difficult year for Friends of Aberdare Park with the shadow of the Covid 19 pandemic.

January started with the great success of the Cynon Valley Museum organising a 'Year in Aberdare Park' exhibition with contributions from Aberdare Photography Society, the Museum and Friends of Aberdare Park led by Wendy supported by the fundraising group. It was very popular with visitors to showcase our successes of 2019.

The fundraising group led by Sharon started to plan events for the coming year. These included events for Easter, Battle of Britain, Council events etc. Unfortunately, these had to be cancelled.

February and March were extremely challenging for the splash pad group organising the legalities and contracts to start the building of the splash pad. WPS were pushing hard to start, so we had to find the financial shortfall to match the offers from our funders. Sobell Trust, Davies Homes (Pontypridd) and especially WDL came to the rescue.

Liz and Billy's support has been important help in the running of the splash pad.

The Lease and the Licence involved lots of discussions between us and the Council and the Funders. The Legalities involved solicitors and that took considerable time.

The week prior to starting was frenetic for me. My head went into the freezer many times. I must thank Jayne, Ann, Sharon and Adrian for everything they did to support the drive to get the splash pad built.

We were really pleased when the Park was again awarded Green Flag. FOAP is looking forward to working with Marie and her colleagues on future projects to support their work in retaining the Award's status.

Once again the Parks Dept have kept the park in excellent order with beautiful floral displays and the upgrades of facilities and toilets.

We have continued to tend to the Raglan Memorial with an annual cleaning and flower planting.

Our weekly parkrun was going from strength to strength until Covid 19 intervened with the last event being on 14th March. This continues to be an opportunity for the whole community to get together to walk, jog or run every Saturday morning. We average 100 participants each week.

We have organised various online fundraising activities with Sarah's Halloween cakes. Sheryll's superb Calendars, Sharon's Christmas Raffle, Adrian's santa suits, and Ade's sister in law Pauline's soaps and smellies. Many thanks to all of them.

I would also like to thank a number of groups and individuals for their financial contributions such as the Aberdare Golf Club and The Beehive.

We raised significant funds from the sale of birdseed during the year, but it has stopped over the winter. With the overcrowding of birds, there is a risk from Avian flu. An outbreak would have a devastating impact with closing the Park having to for three months. There have been outbreaks in Newport and Carmarthen so we need to be very alert to the risk this poses.

I have been very grateful for your help and support throughout this difficult year. A huge amount of work has gone on to ensure that the Splash Pad project has almost been completed.

Philip
Chair
FOAP.

The Friends Of Aberdare Park

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Number 1169132

Accounts 2020 (Period 1st January 2020 to 31st December

2020)

OPENING BALANCE 29058.42

INCOME RECEIVED

DONATIONS AND CHARITABLE AWARDS 264,150.24

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2959.47

RAFFLE TICKETS 154.00

BIRDFOOD SALES 1561.50

OTHER INCOME CALENDARS ETC 177.00

BOOK SALES 73.00

TOTAL GROSS INCOME 269075.21

LESS EXPENDITURE

254633.94

NET INCOME 2020 14,441.27


OPENING BALANCE 29058.42 PLUS NET PROFIT 14441.27 LEAVES A

CLOSING BALANCE OF 43499.69

FRIENDS OF ABERDARE PARK
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
DONATIONS AND CHARITABLE AWARDS	258950	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	240665
FUNDRAISING	2959	INSURANCE	1262
RAFFLES	154	WEBSITE	254
BIRDFOOD SALES	1562	LEGAL COSTS	1610
BOOK SALES	73	FUNDRAISING COSTS	582
OTHER INCOME	<u>177</u>	BANK CHARGES	<u>60</u>
		BOND RCT	244433
		SURPLUS	5000
			<u>14442</u>
			<u><u>263875</u></u>
			<u><u>263875</u></u>

I have prepared the above account from an examination of the accounting records and supporting invoices and vouchers.
 From my examination and the explanations where required from the Trustees, I am satisfied that they represent a true record for the year


 Richard Evans
 6th December 2021