

Friends of Middleton on Sea Pond & Green Charity (No. 1170594)

Chairman's Annual Report to be presented at the AGM on 4th October 2024

Another busy year has passed and the trustees and volunteers have continued with regular work parties to keep a well maintained but natural looking Village Pond and Green which is so enjoyed and appreciated by our local community and visitors.

In May a review of the area was undertaken by Ecologist, Kate Ryland, who last surveyed and drew up a management plan in 2015. She was pleased to see that almost all of her recommendations had been carried out and said that the Friends..... “ have overseen this impressive example of community action to restore, enhance and maintain an asset with historic, ecological and amenity value”. She left us with some suggestions for future habitat enhancement and management from which the trustees will be taking guidance in the years to come.

In September the large chestnut tree was once again inspected by Gale Tree Consultancy. Two years since the last inspection, it was reassuring to see that although the tree is continuing to decay, this is not currently at any great speed and no further tree surgery was required this time. For safety we will follow the recommendation to have it re-inspected in two years time. Unfortunately three other trees were not so lucky and having died from Dutch Elm disease had to be removed by our tree surgeon. To put things into perspective management of these trees alone came to just short of £1,000.

With the amazing support of the local community another very successful fund raising event was held in May raising just over a £1,000 towards maintenance costs. Many thanks to all the additional volunteers who came and helped on the various stalls and for the donations of cakes and plants etc.

We are also grateful for all the financial donations that are either paid directly into our account or left in an envelope at Barley's which allows us to fund the Christmas lights, bulbs and wildflower planting among other things. I must also acknowledge the generous support of Barley's Hardware and Middleton Parish Council.

Weather and flooded state of the Green permitting we hope to host our regular mulled wine & mince pie get-together at Christmas – watch out for the date nearer the time.

This annual report would not be complete without once again acknowledging and thanking Don Faircloth for all the hard work he puts in throughout the year. In addition to leading the monthly volunteer work parties he can often be seen down at the Pond & Green cutting the grass, planting bulbs and plants, checking for storm damage and filling our brown bins.

Finally my thanks go to my fellow Trustees and volunteers for all their hard work, without them none of which would be possible.

Nicky Mills, Chair of the Trustees, 22nd October 2024

Friends of Middleton - on - Sea Pond & Green Charity

Charity No 1170594

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st May 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Income		
Parish Council Funding	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donations including Gift Aid	1,323.56	729.36
Fund Raising	1,178.41	1,037.78
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	4,501.97	3,767.14
Expenditure		
Insurance	384.60	384.60
Secretarial Honorarium	100.00	100.00
Legal and Professional (Note 2)	88.20	750.00
Printing, Stationery and Postage	8.20	-
Site Maintenance		
Brown Bins	155.52	172.18
Tree lighting	367.95	370.24
Lawnmower and Equipment	51.32	-
Tree Work	2,785.00	1,090.00
General Garden & Pond Maintenance (Note 1)	1,211.08	464.55
	<u>5,151.87</u>	<u>3,331.57</u>
Excess of income over (expenditure)	<u>(649.90)</u>	<u>435.57</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st May 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	7,364.29	7,818.07
Cash in hand	78.41	60.20
	<u>7,442.70</u>	<u>7,878.27</u>
Total Assets	<u>7,442.70</u>	<u>7,878.27</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	-	-
Capital and Reserves (Note 3)		
General Reserves	4,442.70	3,878.27
Sinking Fund Reserve	3,000.00	4,000.00
	<u>7,442.70</u>	<u>7,878.27</u>


Notes to the accounts

Note 1. The General Maintenance costs relate to the purchase of plants, bulbs and compost.

Note 2. Professional fees include £650 for an ecological survey.

Note 3.	Reserves	General	Sinking Fund
	1 June 2023	4,442.70	3,000.00
	Surplus for the year	435.57	-
	Transfers	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
	31 May 2024	<u>3,878.27</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>

A further £1,000 has been transferred to the Sinking Fund to ensure sufficient funds are set aside to meet the estimated expenditure for major tree maintenance and possible tree removals.


B R Ingate
Honorary Treasurer

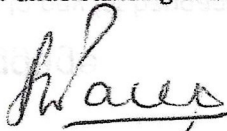
Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts of the Friends of Middleton-on-Sea Pond and Green Charity No 1170594 for the year ended 31st May 2024

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or did not comply with the applicable requirements 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 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:

28/08/24

Independent Examiner