

FRIENDS OF GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK

England & Wales · Charity number 1171862

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-02

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

Contact

Address 56 Moor Road North
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE3 1AB

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Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE 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 GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK.

Activities: The activities involve the care, maintenance and improvement of Gosforth Central Park. This will also include organising family orientated events.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Newcastle Upon Tyne City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-20	£5,289	£3,273	-	-
2024-01-20	£6,345	£5,609	-	-
2023-01-20	£1,764	£1,403	-	-
2022-01-20	£2,211	£960	-	-
2021-01-20	£1,198	£2,368	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALLAN AITKEN GILLARD		2018-03-17
ELIZABETH MARGARET BRAY		2018-03-16
Johanna van der Linden		2019-03-23
KAREN GRAHAM		2018-03-16
KARI VICKERS		2018-03-17
NIGEL LAURENCE PERRY		2017-03-02
Stephen David Wootten		2019-03-23
Timothy John Crook		2019-03-23

FRIENDS OF GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK

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Trustees' Annual Report 2024/25

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do

Volunteering continued throughout the year to keep Gosforth Central Park in good condition, attractive to visitors and attractive to wildlife. From a pool of about forty regular volunteers, Monday morning attendance averaged out at 24. There were 23 Monday mornings with 25 or more volunteers attending.

The lowest attendance of 13 was on Easter Monday when we held our Easter Event with an Egg Hunt, Magician, and the like; not a regular working session. Our highest turnout of volunteers was 31 on 21 October when we had a visiting group of school children.

Additionally, a number of volunteers worked in and for the Park outside the main Monday sessions making a significant and substantial contribution to Park maintenance and the administration of the charity.

Urban Green Newcastle

Over the year, we have had excellent and reliable support from UGN's Rangers and Community Gardeners. Among other things they have taken away vast quantities of brash and supplied the Park with lots of plants - grown in their own nurseries or raised by Scotswood Community Garden.

While UGN have responsibility for the Children's Playground and its maintenance, two FOGCP volunteers have been trained by UGN to carry out regular inspections.

The Park and the Community

The Hut on the Green, which opened in September in the former Ladies Bowling Pavilion, has become a valuable and instantly successful addition to the Park offering art and craft courses. FOGCP sponsored two places for our gardening team on their Horticulture Course. Over the weeks following the fire that deprived us of a serviceable base, Hut on the Green provided Monday morning refreshment space, including the annual Volunteers' Thank You in December.

Earlier in the year, the tennis courts were refurbished and reopened on a chargeable basis. They are well used, but not as well used as the basketball court, which is in great need of resurfacing.

Gosforth Shopping Centre (GSC) continue to be strong supporters of the Park and of the Friends. Their role in bringing the monthly market to the Park and Shopping Centre is a great benefit to Gosforth. Again this year GSC

sponsored the open air Royalty Cinema and, in December, hosted our wreath making event on a busy Saturday. Their sponsored caterpillar of decorated pebbles and rocks has been a great success. Some of their cinema profits were used to install a defibrillator on the Shopping Centre wall in the Park. In conjunction with UGN, with money raised through their Park activities, GSC have established a fund with a view to supporting improvements to the Children's Playground and other infrastructure.

The Remembrance Sunday parade and service - organised by local churches - was very well attended.

In October 60 children and staff from Archibald First School visited the Park to plant daffodil bulbs and rake up autumn leaves. The bulbs were donated by Sainsbury's.

Our supporters

FOGCP are grateful to those who support the Park and the Friends through donations including by gift aided standing order, the EasyFundRaising scheme, cash in our flowerpot and lots of cakes and biscuits. In these times of poor public funding, we rely on such generosity.

We have also received some quite substantial donations of shrubs, trees and plants including, from time to time, Sainsbury's discarded pot plants and bulbs, many of which we are able to rescue.

In December we received a donation of £2500 from a charitable foundation. While the foundation has not specified how we use their contribution, its objectives focus on community and improving the natural environment - criteria we certainly meet.

FOGCP Events

We view our two annual events as providing a community service rather than profitable undertakings; we accept donations but make no charge. However, donations at the Easter Event were considerably down on previous years - seemingly because people are less likely to carry cash. The purchase of a card reader in advance of the Christmas Wreath Making made a worthwhile difference.

Keeping the Park looking good

In January, a new tree line was planted on the south east lawn in anticipation of the eventual loss of the row of Whitebeams lining the path on the south west lawn. Indeed, two more succumbed to disease during 2024, and were removed. Several other trees around the Park which presented a hazard were also felled.

In 2024 FOGCP invested in a new lawn mower, and a battery hedge trimmer. The mower is a more industrial model which is able to cope with the heavy use required in the Park. The hedge trimmer will reduce the need for maintenance, and reduce our use of petrol. We have also made a start on replacing wheelbarrow wheels with solid tyres which will reduce the need for ongoing tyre and inner tube replacements.

Bird nest box maintenance and monitoring was again supported this year by one of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust's expert staff. Roughly half the boxes showed signs of use, mainly by Blue tits. Surprisingly, at least one box was observed to be occupied by Tree sparrows. The nest box replacement programme continued this year with some minor modifications intended to attract a greater variety of birds.

In other areas - especially in the Quiet Area and the Wildlife Area - differentiated grass cutting, hedge maintenance and other measures seek to make the Park nature friendly.

FOGCP takes care that the flower beds and grass around the War Memorial look good all year round - especially for Remembrance Sunday.

Once again this year our achievements were recognised with an "Outstanding" award by the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood scheme. As well as Gardening Achievement, the scheme assesses Community Participation and Environmental Responsibility.

A few problems

On Tuesday 22 October a fire, which started on the flat roofed extension, along with resultant smoke and water damage, put our base hut out of use. The hut itself is the property of Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) and is insured by them. The contents, however, largely belong to the Friends of Gosforth Central Park (FOGCP) and were not insured - though little of value was lost. While the hut was being rebuilt we were temporarily housed in the former Mens Bowling Pavilion.

Managing the balance between park users, including dogs, and flower bed maintenance and wildlife conservation is a continuing problem. Dog walkers feature as a sizeable proportion of Park users and, for the best part, act responsibly and appreciate the work of FOGCP volunteers. However, a small number of anti-social dog owners don't bother to pick up their dogs' faeces, don't prevent them damaging planted beds, and persist in exercising them in the Quiet Area. Those not keeping their dogs under control present a significant problem for young children and others frightened or cautious of

dogs. UGN has introduced a Canine Policy. However, with so many parks across the city, this is difficult to police.

The perennial problems of wheelie bin fires and graffiti have been dealt with promptly which, we believe, helps keep such incidents to a minimum.

Looking forward

In March 2025 the city's parks will be taken back under the control of Newcastle City Council. The nature of the FOGCP relationship with the Council is unclear.

Despite the temporary loss of our hut and other difficulties, it has been a successful year for Gosforth Central Park. And as ever, we volunteers benefit greatly from the pleasure of working there, and the voiced and unvoiced appreciation of park users.

Allan Gillard

Chair of Trustees

24 February 2025

**FRIENDS OF GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK.
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 21.01.24 TO 20.01.25**

2024	2024		2025	2025		2024	2024		2025	2025
£	£	RECEIPTS	£	£		£	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
	462.00	Standing Orders		588.00			2479.78	Equipment and Maintenance		1791.14
	1098.11	Small Donations incl flowerpot		647.22			1563.08	Plants Group		280.81
		Large Donations:					29.99	Wildlife Group		135.26
		Massarella Café	50.00							
		J Hamilton	200.00							
		Esme Fairburn Foundation	2,500.00							
		D Crawford	50.00							
		L Mc Manus	134.22					Other:		
		C Weatherall	150.00			162.70		Insurance	201.43	
		Newcastle Council re Plaquare	80.00			642.61		Shopping Centre Plants		
2050.00		Newcastle Council Ward Grant				316.13		Easter Event	312.13	
230.83		HMRC Gift Aid	357.23			185.63		Refreshments	251.56	
		HMRC Small Donations Scheme	293.95					Plaques	230.00	
90.00		Womens ' Institute						Wreath Making	30.13	
40.84		Jesmond Ice Cream Co						Presentation Lunch Tickets	26.00	
40.00		Sainsburys				144.95		Willow		
25.21		Amazon Smile Scheme				83.72		Miscellaneous		
19.34		Easy Fundraising Scheme	30.71				1535.74			1051.25
	2496.22			3846.11						
		Other Receipts:					5608.59	Total Payments		
1140.00		Individual Donors								
643.11		Shopping Centre Donation					736.38	Surplus of Receipts less Payments		2030.63
430.43		Bank Interest	207.76							
75.10		Credits on Purchases made								
	2288.64			207.76						
	6344.97	Total		5289.09			6344.97	Total		5289.09
		BANK BALANCE MOVEMENT PER RECORDS:								
			£	£						

FRIENDS OF GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK

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Friends of Gosforth Central Park Charity Number 1171862

Trustees' Review 2023

Volunteering continued throughout the year to keep Gosforth Central Park in good condition. Assessment as "Outstanding" by the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood scheme again confirms both the quality and nature of our work, being assessed on Community Participation and Environmental Responsibility, as well as Gardening Achievement.

There are around forty regularly attending volunteers at our Monday morning work sessions. Generally, attendance is around twenty-one to twenty-seven each week, with an average of twenty-three. Bank holidays and poor weather gave a lower turnout, reducing the average.

The lowest figure was nine on Easter Monday, when many had given their time on Saturday to support the Family Fun Day. There was a high of thirty on two occasions. Of particular note was Monday 4 December when fourteen volunteers turned up on an absolutely foul day of rain, sleet and ice.

Additionally, a number of volunteers and Trustees work in and for the Park outside the main Monday sessions, making a significant and substantial contribution to Park maintenance and the administration of the charity.

The Friends continue to work in collaboration with, and under temporary licence from, Urban Green Newcastle (UGN). A proposal for a replacement partnership agreement has not yet been put to FOGCP for discussion. However, our relationships with UGN are good but will need to be re-established following staff changes. UGN has worked hard to find a suitable tenant for the Ladies Bowls pavilion; they have had some interest in the Bulman Club, but this and the future of the Men's Bowling Green and Pavilion are important issues for the future of the Park.

UGN secured a Lawn Tennis Association grant to re-condition the tennis courts and this will be completed early in 2024. UGN efforts are continuing to find funding for a similar refurbishment of the basketball court, which continues to be a well-used asset.

Local residents and some park users continue to be concerned about the numbers of rats in the Park and UGN have brought in pest control contractors. We have tried to help by relocating the area we use to temporarily store prunings from our work, including those from our progressive pruning programme for overgrown shrubs and ivy.

Our relationship with Gosforth Shopping Centre (GSC) has continued with mutual benefit. Over Coronation weekend in May, GSC sponsored the Royalty Cinema in the Park and, in December, hosted our wreath making event, alongside their own crafts market. Profits from the cinema have been used by UGN to repair and improve the Children's Playground. They have also funded the cost of planting the Shopping Centre beds, both on the High Street and within the Park; these were designed and planted by FOGCP and are looked after by our Plants Group.

The Friends have also established an initial relationship with the Natural History Society of Northumbria as participants in their Gosforth Wild Web Project. This includes sharing our wildlife data with them, and they will provide wildlife-related events in the Park.

Through one of our volunteers, we now have a link with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, with one of their expert staff monitoring the Park's nest boxes.

As the programme of study visits from Gosforth Central Middle School came to an end, pupils and teachers from Archibald First School made a number of visits to work in the Park, supported by some of our volunteers.

Problems of graffiti and vandalism have returned, with wheelie bin burning being a favourite. Dog walkers feature as a sizeable proportion of Park users and, for the best part, act responsibly and appreciate the work of FOGCP volunteers. However, a small number of anti-social dog owners don't bother to pick up after their dog, don't prevent them damaging planted beds, and persist in exercising them in the Quiet Area.

As ever, we are grateful to those who support the Park and the Friends through donations including by Gift Aided standing orders, the EasyFundRaising scheme, cash in our Monday flower pot and lots of cakes and biscuits. We have also received some quite substantial donations of plants. In these times of poor public funding, we rely on such generosity.

Of particular note is a donation of £1000. It was the wish of the donor to support an identifiable project, and we agreed on the planting of significant trees. To that end, work was started on developing a new tree line on the east side of the Park which will help compensate for the inevitable loss of the line of Whitebeams on the west side.

Our income this year also had a boost of £2050.00 from a Ward Grant, approved by Gosforth councillors, and spent on tools and materials for events.

And as ever, we volunteers benefit greatly from the pleasure of working together in the Park and the voiced and unvoiced appreciation of park users.

Steve Wootten

Allan Gillard

The Friends of Gosforth Central Park.
Receipts and Payments Statement for the Period 21.01.23 to 20.01.24

RECEIPTS	£	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
Standing Orders		462.00	Equipment and Maintenance		2479.78
Small Donations incl flowerpot		1098.11	Plants Group		1563.08
Corporate Receipts			Wildlife Group		29.99
Newcastle Council Ward Grant	2050.00		Other		
HMRC Gift Aid	230.83				
Womens ' Institute	90.00		Insurance	162.70	
Jesmond Ice Cream Co	40.84		Shopping Centre Plants	642.61	
Sainsburys	40.00		Easter Event	316.13	
Amazon Smile Scheme	25.21		Refreshments	185.63	
Easy Fundraising Scheme	19.34		Willow	144.95	
		2496.22	Miscellaneous	83.72	
Other Receipts					1535.74
Individual Donors	1140.00		Total Payments		5608.59
Shopping Centre Donation	643.11				
Bank Interest	430.43				
Credits on Purchases made	75.10		Surplus of Receipts less Payments		736.38
		2288.64			
Total		6344.97	Total		6344.97
BANK BALANCE MOVEMENT PER RECORDS:			BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 20.01.24		
			Balance per Bank Statement at 20.01.24		8940.87
Bank Balance at 21.01.23 per Bank Statement and Records		8209.81	ADD: Flowerpot donation banked 20.01.24 not on bank statement until 22.01.24		5.32
ADD: Surplus for the Period		736.38			
Bank Balance at 20.01.24 per Records		8946.19	Bank Balance at 20.01.24 per Records		8946.19
BANK TRANSACTIONS SUMMARY			AUDITOR STATEMENT.		
Bank Balance at 21.01.23		8209.81	I have audited the Receipts and Payments Statement of The Friends of Gosforth Central Park for the period 21.01.23 to 20.01.24 from the books and records provided.		
ADD: Receipts for year		6344.97	The Statement gives a true and fair view of the financial position of The Friends of Gosforth Central Park for the period.		
		14554.78			
LESS: Payments for Year		5608.59	Rod MacLeod: FCA (Retired) 10th February 2024		
Bank Balance at 20.01.24		8946.19			

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Treasurer's Report Year Ending 20 January 2023

The Friends of Gosforth Central Park (FOGCP) is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Figures for Y/E 20 January 2022 are given in brackets.

The bank balance at the start of the year was	£7848.57	(6598.09)
At the end of the financial year it was	£8209.81	(7848.57)

Income	£1764.38	(2210.87)
Expenditure	£1403.14	(960.39)
Giving a surplus for the year of	£361.24	(1250.48)

Breakdown of Income

Our main source of income this financial year has been from public donations by way of regular Standing Orders, coins and notes in our donations flowerpot, and the occasional individual gift. These were grouped together in last year's figures.

FOGCP is registered as a Charity with Amazon Smile and EasyFundRaising. Both donate a small amount for every online purchase by registered supporters.

We are able to claim Gift Aid on most donations, including through HMRC's small Donations Scheme.

Standing Orders	£588.00	(Public
Individual donations	£324.60	donations
Small donations incl. flowerpot	£318.14	£1279.82)
Amazon online purchase scheme	£27.53	(£8.52)
Income from EasyFundRaising	£51.46	(£64.29)
Gift Aid	£206.30	(£302.14)
Queen's Jubilee trees	£150.00	(£0.00)
Bank interest	£98.35	(£0.00)
Sainsbury's	£0.00	(£442.35)
PayPal Giving	£0.00	(£113.75)
Total	£1764.38	(£2210.87)

Breakdown of Expenditure

Expenditure comes under three main headings: Equipment and Maintenance Group; Plants Group; Wildlife Group. Each group is led and overseen by a Trustee. Other costs -

covering anything from public liability insurance for our volunteers (£133.66) to milk and biscuits for the Monday morning break - come under the heading General Payments.

Almost half of the Plants Group spending was on trees funded by specifically targeted donations - including from the Queen's Jubilee Fund. The relatively small Wildlife expenditure is in part due to a successful bid to the Woodland Trust which provided us with one hundred and thirty-five saplings.

Equipment and maintenance	£284.12	(£452.80)
Site maintenance	£119.36	(£181.59)
Plants Group	£646.57	(£75.91)
Wildlife Group	£93.49	(£60.99)
General payments	£259.60	(£189.10)
 Total	 £1403.14	 (£960.39)

FOGCP has set aside reserves totalling £4850.00 to provide against unforeseen losses of income, equipment failure and expenditure arising from damage or theft.

FOGCP banks with Virgin Money, Gosforth.

After much delay due to bank procedure, I finally took over from Roger French as Treasurer at the start of December 2022. Roger has continued to lend support throughout the transition period for which I am truly grateful.

The Accounts were audited and approved by Mr Roderick MacLeod (FCA).

Steve Wootten
Treasurer

17 February 2023

The Friends of Gosforth Central Park.
Receipts and Payments Statement for the Period 21.01.22 to 20.01.23

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Standing Orders	588.00	Tools and Equipment	144.67
Individual Donations	324.60	Tools and Equipment Maintrnance	139.45
Small Donations incl flowerpot	318.14	Site Maintenance	119.36
Amazon online purchae scheme	27.53	Plants and Shrubs	646.57
Easyfundraising scheme	51.46	Wildlife Group	93.49
Gift Aid	206.30	Insurance	133.66
Queen's Jubilee Trees	150.00	Refreshments	103.66
Bank Interest	98.35	Miscellaneous	22.28
		Total Payments	1403.14
		Surplus of Receipts less Payments	361.24
Total	1764.38	Total	1764.38
BANK BALANCE MOVEMENT PER RECORDS:		BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 20.01.23	
		Balance per Bank Statement at 20.01.23	8214.21
Bank Balance at 21.01.22 per Bank Statement and Records	7848.57	LESS: Payments made on 20.01.23 not charged on Bank Statement until 23.01.23:	
ADD: Surplus for the Period	361.24	Refreshments	1.90
		Card	2.50
Bank Balance at 20.01.23 per Records	8209.81	Bank Balance at 20.01.23 per Records	8209.81
		AUDITOR STATEMENT.	
		I have audited the Receipts and Payments Statement of The Friends of Gosforth Central Park for the period 21.01.22 to 20.01.23 from the books and records provided.	
		The Statement gives a true and fair view of the financial position of The Friends of Gosforth Central Park for the period.	
		Rod MacLeod: FCA (Retired)	
		11th February 2023	

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 21st	Month January	Year 2021		Day 20th	Month January	Year 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Friends of Gosforth Central Park

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

11718862

Charity's principal address

c/o 56, Moor Road North,
Newcastle upon Tyne

Postcode **NE3 1AB**

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	E.Bray			
2	T.Crook			
3	R.French	Treasurer		
4	A.Gillard	Chair		
5	K.Graham	Secretary		
6	N.Perry			
7	J.Van der Linden			
8	K.Vickers			
9	S.Wootten			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

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
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected at the AGM from nominations received from Members; one third of Trustees retire each year but are eligible for re-election

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>The community organisation “Friends of Gosforth Central Park” was set up in March 2013 and was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the same name, on 2 March 2017.</p> <p>On 1 April 2019, most parks in Newcastle upon Tyne, including Gosforth Central Park, were leased by the City Council for 125 years to an organisation now known as Urban Green Newcastle, a charitable organisation, which has taken overall responsibility.</p> <p>The trustees of this organisation have worked in cooperation with Urban Green Newcastle, in particular to work in accordance with government guidance concerning volunteering during the Covid pandemic and under a licence from Urban Green.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

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

<p>The objectives of the CIO are for the benefit of the inhabitants of Newcastle upon Tyne to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants, in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Gosforth Central Park,</p>
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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)

When planning activities, trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific objects of this CIO.

The CIO organises and guides the work of volunteers, most of whom are members of the CIO.

This work in Gosforth Central Park involves the maintenance and improvement of the Park, including routine tasks such as litter picking, and the care for plants and shrubs, flower beds and planters; other activities have included further development of a Wildlife Area and for the area of a former bowling green.

In terms of reaching out to the community, our Events programme was still suspended during and following Covid restrictions but links have been developed with a local Middle School.

The numbers of members and volunteer workers have been maintained, with several new volunteers.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are all volunteers.

Trustees, elected from and by the membership, assume the overall management of the CIO, including finances, liaison with Urban Green Newcastle and the organisation of volunteer activities.

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

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Trustees' Review of 2021

Another year of Covid, but volunteering continued throughout to keep the Park in good condition and improve it.

As ever, our activities are dependent on the loyalty and hard work of our volunteers. As an indicator of our achievements, Friends of Gosforth Central Park was again awarded 'Outstanding' in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category.

Our main work is carried out in our Monday work sessions, by a pool of around thirty-five regular volunteers, with an average attendance of 22. Being able to work outdoors and socially distanced, Covid has not significantly impacted our numbers and we have welcomed several new volunteers who have become regular attenders. Access into the Hut is still restricted but in the last few months we have felt able to resume having the social benefits of our coffee breaks – but outside the Hut.

It is difficult to put a figure on actual hours worked; whilst the basic work session is two hours from 10.00 to 12.00, many volunteers start work at around 09.30 and three or four at around 9 a.m. And there are some who regularly keep working beyond midday.

Additionally, a number of volunteers work in and for the park outside the main Monday sessions. Many volunteers make significant and substantial contributions, including:

- Watering during dry spells
- Tending young saplings and new planting
- Providing emergency response to graffiti, vandalism and other damage. We have set up an "Out of Hours" WhatsApp group to help with this
- Repairing and maintaining tools and other equipment
- Preparatory work for construction and improvements
- Litter picking. Some of our Monday litter pickers come out at other times when they see the need. In the summer months, that can be quite a lot. Additionally, groups of parents and a number of individuals litter pick, independent of the Friends
- Nurturing plants at home ready for transfer to the park
- Engaging with school kids and basketball players to encourage more responsible use of the park
- Supporting visiting school study activities
- Special interest group meetings e.g. the Plants Group
- Preparation and support for the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade
- Liaising with Urban Green Newcastle
- Communicating with the FOGCP membership and posting on Facebook
- Updating Risk Assessments
- Financial planning and management
- Handling donations, Gift Aid and Standing Orders

- Work planning and organisation of the weekly Monday sessions
- Preparation and submission of plans, funding bids, requests for permissions, etc.
- FOGCP is managed by nine Trustees. There have been 8 Trustees' meetings during the year, as well as the AGM in March 2021, all by Zoom

The Friends continue to work in collaboration with, and under licence from, Urban Green Newcastle (UGN). This includes working to a set of agreed risk assessments, incorporating changing government guidelines. UGN support in the Park has been provided by Ranger Graham Park and we are very grateful for all he has done. Graham did an excellent repair to the side of the Ladies Pavilion and UGN have funded expert repairs of the wall behind the Bulman Club and the steps down from the raised area; we were pleased to be able to improve the tennis nets, thanks to UGN who passed on to us nets donated by the Garden Village Tennis Club.

We are still anxious that Urban Green makes progress with consideration of the future of the Bulman Club and the Quiet Area and also with the need to resurface the tennis and basketball courts.

A major task for the Monday volunteers is keeping the park tidy and in good order by sweeping paths, picking litter, weeding, scrubbing benches and so on. The development and maintenance of flower beds and planters is led by our Plants Group, with a sub-group looking after the park's trees and shrubs. Work in 2021 has included a significant overhaul of the herbaceous borders, and the reinvention of two struggling flower beds to become Prairie Beds, cutting down on our use of seasonal bedding plants. We continue with the improvement of soil in the Park, using our own compost and leaf mould; autumn leaf collecting is a major activity! We have undertaken some fairly drastic pruning and reshaping of the shrubberies to the north of the Bulman Club, around the War Memorial and along the St Nicholas Avenue path. In the Bulman Club area, we have planted, largely donated, shade-tolerant plants and put down paving stones to help integrate the area into the Park with more accessible routes.

The redundant Ladies Bowling Green - or Quiet Area as we now call it - is still a work in progress. Early in the year we planted the east border with lots of native saplings to join the donated apple trees. We have also started a tree nursery bed in this sector. The self-seeded shrub growth in the bowling green ditch has been severely cut back as a first step to developing a hedge on three sides of the green. A mixed flower bed is proposed for the outer north border. Development of the old bowling green itself is problematic. It is mainly used by parents with young children who welcome an enclosed safe area to play, and by after-school children meeting in large groups or playing football. In informal discussion, UGN have considered ideas such as community use for the pavilion and a mini-orchard on part of the green - but the

soil is very poor and would need substantial improvement.

A Council lawnmower destroyed a newly planted row of shrubs in the Woodland Walk, but subsequent planting of low herbage has much improved this difficult path side.

In the Wildlife Area, natural fencing around seeded and planted beds has helped combat the loss of plants and habitats through trampling, and the pond now benefits from a pipe we have constructed to take rainwater collected from the roof of Gosforth Memorial Medical Centre. A section of the Wildlife Area is left uncut in order to encourage invertebrates and to provide a year-round supply of food for birds; bird feeders are regularly stocked.

The willow tunnel and willow screen had their annual overhaul at the end of the year. Much of the willow is simply cut back, but it starts with the painstaking process of weaving in as much of the new growth as possible in order to strengthen the structures. Harvested withies are made good use of for natural fencing around the park.

Construction projects this year have included hand carved wood Prairie Bed and Quiet Area signs, three new compost bins built at home by one of our volunteers and assembled on site in the Quiet Area, two new benches, and the piped water feed for the pond already mentioned. A number of new paths for children have been laid through the Memorial shrubberies in order to limit wear and tear. There is also a plan to install a water butt to collect rainwater from the Ladies Pavilion roof.

The park got off fairly lightly from Storm Arwen in November. Cypress trees in Mario's bed adopted a lean but remained rooted and have now been roped upright. A Thorn tree in the Memorial shrubbery suffered significant damage; it has been made safe but will need careful attention if it is to survive. The storm left us with excessive quantities of fallen twigs and branches which eventually will be chipped by UGN and put to good use carpeting the willow tunnel and paths through the shrubberies, and under picnic tables.

An extensive period of vandalism was the one big negative of the year. Arson was a citywide phenomenon through the early summer. In Gosforth Central Park there were a number of incidents involving the burning of wheelie bins and their contents up to four at a time. Of the many small fires, one had been fueled by wood cladding from the Ladies Pavilion. Another fire was lit on the step to the volunteers' hut. Vandals also broke down one of the Quiet Area gates and the door to the male bowlers' toilets and smashed washbasins, toilets, mirrors and pictures. An increased Community Police presence made some impact and the worst of the behaviour faded. Occasionally, graffiti can need prompt removal.

Because of the pandemic, there were no organised events this year - which is a great miss. We did, though, host several study visits for a group of pupils and their teachers from Gosforth Central

Middle School. The school plan more sessions in the park for 2022. We also arranged a tour of the trees in the Park for the Women's Institute.

As ever, we are grateful to those who support the park and the Friends through donations including by Gift-aided Standing Orders, cash in our "flower pot" on Mondays, and lots of cakes and biscuits. We have also received some quite substantial donations of plants. In these times of poor public funding, we rely on such generosity.

The covid pandemic of 2020 encouraged many people to make use of their local parks. In GCP visitor numbers increased substantially. Whilst lockdown numbers may not have been sustained at that level through 2021, the park is a much busier place than it used to be. A trip to the park, meeting up with friends, taking the dog for a walk or just passing through on the way to somewhere else has become a significant feature of the day for many local people.

And, of course, we volunteers benefit greatly from the pleasure of working in the park and the voiced and unvoiced appreciation of park users.

Our AGM will be held in March 2022, almost certainly by Zoom and all Members will be invited to take part.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Charity up dated its reserve policy for 2022/23 having reviewed its policy for 2021/22. The policy follows the guidance outlined in Annex 1 to CC19 as appropriate for small charities.

A broadly balanced budget was set but contingency reserves were held for each of the main subgroups - Wildlife, Plant Group and Equipment Group and a small reserve was held to finance any small developments agreed with Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) as the Charity undertakes its work under licence from UGN.

Reserves are held within the accumulated fund to replace any equipment that should break and residual funds are held as "free" reserves.

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.

The main income stream continues to be from regular donations from members by Standing Order, donations by the public via our "flowerpot" donation box at our regular work sessions and in 2021/22 the Charity claimed Gift Aid from eligible donors and under the small donations scheme.

Section F

Other optional information

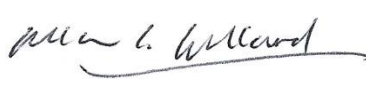
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Section G

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)	Allan Aitken Gillard	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date 22 September 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Gosforth Central Park	No (if any)
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 21/02/2021	To	Period end date 20/01/2022
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,909	-	-	1,909	1,198
Gift Aid	302	-	-	302	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,211	-	-	2,211	1,198
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,211	-	-	2,211	1,198
A3 Payments					
Tools and tool maintenance	377	-	-	377	1,117
Plants, shrubs and fertilisers	76	-	-	76	424
Site maintenance	181	-	-	181	261
Insurance	134	-	-	134	134
Publicity	-	-	-	-	10
Wildlife area	61	-	-	61	346
Miscellaneous	55	-	-	55	76
Safety equipment	76	-	-	76	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	960	-	-	960	2,368
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	960	-	-	960	2,368
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,251	-	-	1,251	- 1,170
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,598	-	-	6,598	-
Cash funds this year end	7,849	-	-	7,849	- 1,170

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		7,849	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,849	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	R.D.French	Roger David French	20/09/2022	

FRIENDS OF GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1171862

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	21	Jan	2020
To	20	Jan	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Friends of Gosforth Central Park

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

11718862

Charity's principal address

c/o 56, Moor Road North	
Newcastle upon Tyne	
Postcode	NE3 1AB

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	E. Bray			
2	T. Crook			
3	A. Gillard	Chair		
4	K. Graham	Secretary		
5	P. Morrill	Treasurer	until August 2020	
6	N. Perry			
7	J. Van der Linden			
8	K. Vickers			
9	S. Wootten			
10	R. French	Treasurer	from August 2020	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

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
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected at the AGM from nominations received from Members; one third of trustees retire each year, but are eligible for re-election.

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 community organisation "Friends of Gosforth Central Park" was set up in March 2013 and was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the same name, on 2 March 2017.

On 1 April 2019, most parks in Newcastle upon Tyne, including Gosforth Central Park, were leased by the City Council for 125 years to an organisation now known as Urban Green Newcastle, a charitable organisation, which now has taken overall responsibility.

The Trustees have worked in cooperation with Urban Green Newcastle to develop ways of working in accordance with Governmental guidance concerning volunteering during the Covid pandemic.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The objects of the CIO are for the benefit of the inhabitants of Newcastle upon Tyne **to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation** in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants, **in particular** but not exclusively **by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Gosforth Central Park.**

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)

When planning activities, trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific objects of the CIO.

The CIO organises and guides of the work of volunteers, most of whom are members of the CIO.

This work in Gosforth Central Park involves the maintenance and improvement of the Park, including routine tasks such as litter picking, and the care for plants and shrubs, flower beds and planters; other activities have included the further development of a Wildlife Area.

Work with schools and our Events programme were suspended during this year because of Covid19 restrictions.

As the year progressed, we carried out Risk Assessments and found a style of working which allowed us to resume most of our usual volunteering activities, and while respecting social distancing and other requirements.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are all volunteers, with elected Trustees assuming the management of volunteers' activities.

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

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Despite the various impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the biggest achievement of the CIO is that the Park continues to be in good condition. This is a great tribute to the work of our loyal group of volunteers and the efforts of trustees to organise this.

During the first lockdown from March, the Park was closed to volunteering and all planting suffered from drought and hot weather. **Monday volunteering** was allowed to resume, initially on a limited basis, in June and we managed to catch up with maintenance. From then onwards, respecting social distancing and other Governmental guidance, volunteer numbers have almost reached the level of previous years, although our working practices have had to change, and volunteers are not allowed to use the enclosed space of the Hut.

In all of this we have been guided by staff of **Urban Green Newcastle** (UGN) and our work is now carried out under terms of a licence from UGN, working to our Risk Assessments which emphasise the need to follow Government rules.

Our **AGM** was planned for 21st March but, with lockdown imminent, trustees decided that we could not conduct a public meeting; instead, members agreed by email to the reports and nominations for trustees. Trustees have used Zoom for their most recent meetings.

A series of changes to the work of **Trustees** was caused by Peter Morrill's resignation. Peter, supported by Lucy, had done an enormous amount of work right from our beginnings in 2013. We record our thanks to him for all of this. We were fortunate to co-opt Roger French to take over as Treasurer. Tim Crook has taken over as Data Protection Officer, dealing with membership and email communications, while Karen Graham does our popular Facebook posts. Steve Wootten and Jo van der Linden now organise the Monday work sessions.

We are grateful, as ever, to those Members and park users who have made **donations** to support our work, including some Standing Orders which will be Gift Aided now that we are registered to reclaim tax paid. Thanks to the generosity of donors and Ward grants, over the years, we still have a reasonable reserve. However, our income has been much reduced during this year and we will be looking carefully at our spending levels and at ways to further increase our funding.

We have continued to structure volunteer activity around a number of **Groups** who lead on the planning and care of Plants, the development of the Wildlife Area, and on Equipment and Safety. We are phasing out use of bedding plants, to be replaced by more sustainable planting and the use of seeds. We have made progress on the management of overgrown shrubs and a path has been formed around the Bulman Club. In the Wildlife Area, the

pond is recovering from the drought and more hedgerow shrubs and wildflower seeds have been planted. Several trees were planted as a result of a generous donation. Good work has been carried out on machine repair and maintenance; special thanks are due to Tim Crook for his work on our Risk Assessments and detailed plans for various projects.

Covid restrictions meant that we could not hold any of our usual **Events**. However, since one of the main objectives of our Events programme was to encourage greater use and awareness of the Park, it should be noted that the public use of the Park has increased enormously during the year. Benches and the picnic tables have been very well used, the Children's Playground and the tennis and basketball courts have all been very busy.

It became clear that the **development proposals**, for the Bulman Club area, for the tennis and basketball courts, and for use of the ladies bowling green and pavilion, have been abandoned. Trustees have prepared our own analysis and ideas for the future of these areas and a document has been circulated to all CIO Members and sent to UGN, to Ward Councillors and to SPACE for Gosforth for comment.

For the area around the Bulman Club, we see great potential benefits in creating better links between the High Street and the Park.

For the former bowling green area, we have left a gate open to allow access to this part of the Park and we are encouraging its use as a Quiet Area, and with potential for community activities.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Trustees have adopted a more explicit policy towards reserves to ensure that funding would be available to maintain or replace our principal operating machinery, and to cover insurance and other costs.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

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.

We have developed an income stream from CIO Members making Standing Orders and have registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and also for online funding schemes from purchases.

Section F

Other optional information

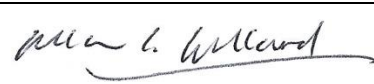
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Section G

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)	Allan Aitken Gillard	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	08 June 2021	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 21/01/2020	To	Period end date 20/01/2021
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,198	-	-	1,198	3,701
Council Grants	-	-	-	-	900
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,198	-	-	1,198	4,601
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,198	-	-	1,198	4,601
A3 Payments					
Tools and Tool Maintenance	1,117	-	-	1,117	392
Hire Charges	-	-	-	-	15
Plants, shrubs, fertilisers etc	424	-	-	424	443
Site Maintenance	261	-	-	261	588
Insurance	134	-	-	134	134
Publicity	10	-	-	10	9
Wildlife area	346	-	-	346	506
Evetnts	-	-	-	-	1,284
Miscellaneous	76	-	-	76	339
Sub total	2,368	-	-	2,368	3,710
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Battery hedge trimmer	-	-	-	-	-
Caomposting facilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,368	-	-	2,368	3,710
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,170	-	-	- 1,170	891
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,768	-	-	7,768	-
Cash funds this year end	6,598	-	-	6,598	891

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		6,598	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,598	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


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

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

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

Categories	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
 Treasurer Friends of Gosforth Central Park	Roger David French	08/06/2021