

# 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)**

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

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

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

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

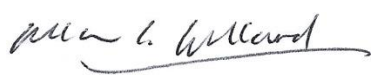
We have developed an income stream from CIO Members making Standing Orders and have registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and also for online funding schemes from purchases.

## Section F Other optional information

## 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)

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
21/01/2020

To

Period end date  
20/01/2021

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	1,198	-	-	1,198	3,701
Council Grants	-	-	-	-	900
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	1,198	-	-	1,198	4,601
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	1,198	-	-	1,198	4,601
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
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
<b>Sub total</b>	2,368	-	-	2,368	3,710
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Battery hedge trimmer	-	-	-	-	-
Caomposting facilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	2,368	-	-	2,368	3,710
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	- 1,170	-	-	- 1,170	891
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	7,768	-	-	7,768	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	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	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	08/06/2021
Treasurer Friends of Gosforth Central Park				