



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 01/10/22 **Period start date** **To:** 30/09/23 **Period end date**

Charity name: FRIENDS OF RIDLEY PARK (FORP)

Charity registration number: 1177588

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	FORP was set up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• help the inhabitants of Blyth and its surrounding area by providing or assisting in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation.• improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants in the area of benefit by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Ridley Park.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Park entrance project received funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Lottery• Public donations• Pavilion hire donations• Easy Fundraising• Amazon Smile Park improvements - disabled access picnic bench <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northumberland County Council grant• Public donation Nature related activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASDA funding for biodiversity projects• Successfully applied for September 2022 - September 2023 Co-op community funding scheme for biodiversity projects• Northumberland Day bat walk• Bird screen maintenance• Bulb planting• Nest box audit

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light gardening • Litter picking • RSPB Birdwatch survey • Northumberland in Bloom award ceremony • Green Flag Judges visit <p>Heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill & Ben mascots • FORP CONNECT newsletters • Coronation Day window display <p>Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public library display • Pride of Place Blyth town exhibition • <i>Revitalising our Estuaries</i> exhibition with Groundworks • Women's Institute talk • Blyth Culture Network & Blythfest window display • Blyth Town Carnival parade • Blyth Library Green Living Day • Northumberland County Council "Love your Park" promotion <p>Training/awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERIC wildlife recording training • Christmas tree - seasons of the park, 1st prize in community competition • Green Flag award
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have observed the Commission's statutory guidance on public benefit to improve facilities and activities within Ridley Park.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Treasurer: 4 hours weekly (192 hours) Secretary: 4 hours weekly (192 hours) Trustee: 20 hours

		Accounts auditor: 8 hours Weekly Jobs in the Park: 384 hours per year Community event attendance: 70 hours Total for year: 866 hours
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>During this financial year FORP received final approval for the balance of funding of £26,000 for the park entrance project from Northumberland County Council. FORP fundraising efforts have continued to build up and ring fence a maintenance fund for this project which will substantially enhance and promote the park to the community.</p> <p>A grant of £500 was received from the Northumberland County Council to buy a picnic bench made of recycled materials with wheelchair access. This will replace a wooden picnic table which was vandalised and will reinstate an amenity to park users.</p> <p>Other achievements relied on volunteer time and minimal or no financial input from FORP. Members bring a positive presence to the park to improve the park for all the community. Some members work together on creative projects, while others are active on engagement with groups in the wider community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOBS IN THE PARK (weekly session) - 384 hours of volunteer time: litter picking, deadheading roses, bird-screen and pavilion maintenance, light gardening, window displays, nest box audit and report. Bill & Ben change themes throughout the year. • FORP CONNECT - 7 digital editions of the newsletter were produced to help charity trustees stay in touch,

		<p>especially those with an underlying health condition, living alone or socially isolated. The newsletter started during COVID-19 and is considered a valuable archive resource for FORP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BILL & BEN FORP MASCOTS: volunteers took them to the King's Coronation event and Blyth Town Carnival Parade • REVITALISING OUR ESTUARIES PROJECT collaboration with Groundworks North-East involved planting wildflower plugs in the park and a public exhibition was held in the pavilion. • CREATIVE PROJECT - Christmas tree and decorations were handmade for the annual tree festival. FORP won 1st prize in 2022.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Following on from COVID 19, expenditure has been carefully monitored. Use of the pavilion has generated a welcome increase in income this year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Friends of Ridley Park aim to hold £1000 in reserves as this will ensure we can cover our Public Liability insurance costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£1000.00
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by Charity Trustees of Friends of Ridley Park

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Safeguarding Policy GDPR Policy Health & Safety Policy Equal Opportunities Policy Volunteer Policy
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Ridley Park
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1177588
Charity's principal address	4 Park View Blyth NE24 3AY

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	Fiona Gibson	Chair		Trustees of Friends of Ridley Park
2	Gerald Wallace	Vice Chair		Trustees of Friends of Ridley Park
3	Stu Olley			Trustees of Friends of Ridley Park
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

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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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Fiona Mary Gibson	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
Date	24 January 2024	

FRIENDS OF RIDLEY PARK

Wensleydale Terrace, Blyth, NE24 3HF

Charity Commission Number: 1177588

Statement of Accounts

For the Year Ended

30th September 2023

FRIENDS OF RIDLEY PARK

Charity Commission Number: 1177588

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023Total Funds at 1st October 2022

26,663.59

RECEIPTSMembership Fees

21.00

Donations

Collections	19.19	
Donations - General	442.00	
Donations - Pavilion Use	630.00	
Donations - One Lottery Prizes	421.68	
		1,512.87

Grants & Awards

Asda Green Token Scheme	400.00	
Northumberland County Council Microgrant	500.00	
		900.00

Other Receipts

Amazon Smile Receipts	50.63	
Easy Fundraising Receipts	86.31	
One Lottery Ticket Sales Refunds	1,200.00	
		1,336.94

TOTAL RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR

3,770.81

30,434.40**PAYMENTS**Miscellaneous Project

Insurance - Combined Policy	350.47	
NCC - Gaming Licence for One Lottery	20.00	
Christmas Tree Decorations	13.99	
New Lock and Keys	37.00	
National Garden Tokens - Gifts	100.00	
'Bill & Ben' Photographs	7.50	
Notice Board Materials	25.00	
		553.96

Bird Screen & Nest Boxes Project

Bird Screen - Bird Food	85.76	
Bird Screen - Maintenance Costs	75.00	
		160.76

TOTAL PAID DURING THE YEAR

714.72

Total Funds at 30th September 2023

29,719.68

30,434.40

STATEMENT OF MEMBER'S FUNDS AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Assets & Liabilities

Notes

Assets

Cash at Bank & In Hand:

Balance at Lloyds Bank

29,634.66

Cash in Hand

85.02

Total Assets

29,719.68

Liabilities

Deferred Income:

Blyth Town Council Grant

1

15,000.00

Joicey Trust Grant

2

5,000.00

Total Liabilities

(20,000.00)

9,719.68

Represented By:-

Member's Funds:

Miscellaneous Project

631.31

Park Entrance Project

7,580.48

Bird Screen & Nest Boxes Project

207.89

Nature Project


400.00

Seating Project

900.00

9,719.68Notes:

- FORP received a Community Support Grant of £15,000 from Blyth Town Council on 29th March 2021. The grant was offered towards the Park Entrance Project with the proviso that certain conditions be met before the funds were expended; the main condition being that the remaining funds be raised to complete the project. The conditions attached to the grant have, as at the year-end date, not yet been met. Consequently, this amount is treated as Deferred Income as at 30th September 2023 as there is a possibility that it might have to be repaid to Blyth Town Council.
- FORP received a Grant of £5,000 from The Joicey Trust on 4th July 2022. The grant was offered towards the Park Entrance Project with the proviso that certain conditions be met before the funds were expended; the main conditions being that the the project should be fully funded but not over funded and that the project is going ahead. The conditions attached to the grant have, as at the year-end date, not yet been met. Consequently, this amount is treated as Deferred Income as at 30th September 2023 as there is a possibility that it might have to be repaid to The Joicey Trust.

Signed on behalf of all Trustees:Signature


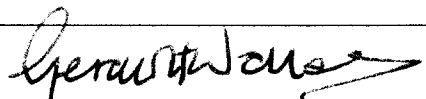
(Trustee)

Name

FIONA M GIBSON

Date

06/11/23.

Signature


(Trustee)

Name

Gerald H Wallace

Date

08/11/23

FRIENDS OF RIDLEY PARK

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

Having examined the accounts of "Friends of Ridley Park", the receipts and payments are, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate record.

Signed:

Joan A Dearden

Name:

Joan Dearden

Date:

1/11/2023

Address:

27 FORSTER STREET
BLITH
NORTHUMBERLAND
NE24 3BS

Phone:

07926 522553

Charity Commission Number: 1177588