



friends of
Eastwoods Park

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 4 April 2024

Registered Charity Number 1181168

Principal Office
Miners Lamp Community Cafe & Hub
Eastwoods Park
Eastwoods Road
Prudhoe
Northumberland
NE42 5DT

Reference and Administrative Details

4th April 2024

Charity Name	Friends of Eastwoods Park
Charity Reg No	1181168
Principal Office	Miners Lamp Community Cafe & Hub Eastwoods Park, Eastwoods Road Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5DT
Website	www.minerslamp.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/MinersLampCafe www.facebook.com/friendsofeastwoodspark
Trustees:	Alexandra Bond Hayley Dickinson Lesley Ineson Joss Mitchell
Independent Examiner	Lynne O'Brien 6 Shepherds Way East Boldon, Tyne & Wear NE36 0QT
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Nine Brindleyplace Birmingham, B1 2HB
Solicitors	Power Scott Solicitors 16 Clifford Road Stanley, Co Durham DH9 0AB

Trustees Report

The trustees of the charity present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 4th April 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounts and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Report Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1st Jan 2019)

The financial statements have been independently examined as required under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Objects and Aims

The Friends of Eastwoods Park is a registered charity, set up to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for residents.

In furtherance of these objectives, but not otherwise, the trustees shall have the power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and recreational land and to maintain, manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre and recreational land, for activities promoted by the charity.

We fulfil our objects and aims through the following objectives, strategies and activities.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Miners Lamp opened in April 2019, through which we provide facilities for our community and park users to access such as toilets and cafe. We ensure that our cafe can meet the needs of those on low incomes and can be affordable for many who visit Eastwoods Park.

Community Cafe & Hub

The Miners Lamp commands a prominent position within Eastwoods Park and the community of West Wylam, however our reach extends far beyond. Our Community Cafe & Hub continues to be a key part in our operations not least providing a warm and welcoming space with toilet facilities for park users, but also as a base for many of our other continuing project, and activities and events.

Our Community Cafe has become a place of value for many in our community, providing a place to meet new people and reduce loneliness and isolation for many elderly people in our community.

Food Bank and Fighting Hunger

We continue our mission to fight hunger. We approach this through a number of initiatives, since our inception we have operated our Food Bank, which continues to be an important part of our operation and is crucial for many individuals and families. Throughout the period we support nearly 200 households facing food poverty. Over 50% of those we support live within the West Wylam area.

There are many reasons why people access our food bank which can range from recent job loss, unexpected bills, financial difficulties, and rent arrears etc.

We're delighted to continue to work with a number of local partners who support our service through providing drop off points for members of the public, including Aldi, Coop Wylam, Coop Garage Prudhoe, Spar Branch End and Stocksfield Post Office. We are always in awe at the generosity of those who donate food direct to us as well, including Prudhoe Methodist Church, and Stocksfield Baptist Church.

We supported our Christmas Hamper project which our trustees decided to continue. Our Christmas Hampers are a seasonal extra for those we support through our food bank. Our food bank is designed to meet a basic need of alleviating hunger. Our Christmas Hampers are designed to provide those extra things that many take for granted, at Christmas time and can make life that little less stressful for many.

In addition to many of the Christmas staples such as stuffing, gravy, crackers, biscuits and many other everyday items used at Christmas, we were also able to include small essential items such as toiletry sets, hats, gloves, socks and other small items.

We continued our Free Community Lunch Club providing a warm space and hot meal to members of our community one day per week. Throughout January to March 2024 we provided nearly 300 free lunch and desserts to members of our community.

We also continued to work with Fareshare throughout the year to redistribute food and reduce food waste. Food donated by Fareshare is a valuable contribution to our work through our community cafe, food bank and free lunch club.

School Uniform Scheme

We continued to operate our school uniform scheme. However, following the introduction of new legislation and guidance issued under the [Education \(Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms\) Act 2021](#), this required appropriate authorities of relevant schools to have regard to the cost and durability of uniform items when developing and implementing their school's uniform policy.

It set out a number of areas where consideration should be given in respect of branded items where other everyday items can be purchased from most retailers, due to frequent changes to uniform.

Governing bodies were to be compliant with the Act by September 2022. As a result we have seen a large reduction in the number of requests for uniform that we would normally receive over the summer break.

In September 2023 we decided to discontinue our uniform scheme. This decision was not taken lightly and we had to weigh up not only the time and cost of administering the scheme, but also the sheer space requirements of storing large quantities of school uniform.

Local History and Heritage

Eastwoods Park and the Miners Lamp Community Cafe and Hub are the centre of our operations. As an important community park with a rich history serving the former mining community of West Wylam. We named the Miners Lamp in honour of this, and an important part of our mission is to preserve and promote our local industrial heritage.

We continue to display many items of local historical interest within the Miners Lamp and alongside this we continue to seek out items of special interest. We continue to purchase items relating to the former mining community of West Wylam, and for many who lived in the community who worked at the former Prudhoe Hospital we have been lucky to add to our collection with a number of Prudhoe Pottery items. These items were handmade by the residents of the hospital through vocational training schemes.

We intend that these items will be placed on display for many to admire and understand the history behind these artefacts.

Youth Employment

We continue to work towards improving the lives of those in our community. Although we are limited in respect of the extent of our youth employment scheme, we are committed to providing opportunities for young people where possible.

We provide casual employment to young people, offering an opportunity to learn new skills in a hospitality setting within our community cafe. Alongside this, the young people we work with grow in confidence and it is a vital part of how we engage with young people, and an important way to reduce the temptation of antisocial behaviour.

Eastwoods Park Environmental Improvements

We continue to work with Northumberland County Council to bring about environmental improvements within Eastwoods Park. Our aim is to make Eastwoods Park more accessible and a much valued and enjoyed place within our community.

2023 saw the coronation of HM King Charles III, which we celebrated by lighting of the Beacon.

We continue to make further environmental improvements to Eastwoods Park including planted areas, installation of bird boxes and bug hotels. We also continue to work in partnership with Northumberland County Council on achieving Green Flag status for Eastwoods Park and continue to work for other improvements to the park to make Eastwoods Park more accessible for those with disabilities.

Community Fun Days and the return of Prudhoe Town Show

Our annual Summer Fun Days are a great way to bring our community together, providing free children's entertainment, we have around 500 attendees come along. Bringing our community together helps to build community cohesion and providing free entertainment and low cost refreshments, it also meets the need of many families and individuals within our community who find visiting other events and activities for children financially difficult.

This year was extra special by seeing the return of Prudhoe Town Show. The Show which had originally began life as the West Wylam and Prudhoe Flower Show in 1857 looked unlikely to return after its last appearance in 2018, with difficulty in securing volunteers in 2019 and then subsequently covid, it looked unlikely to return. We were delighted with the attendance and support from our community for its return in conjunction with our annual summer fun days.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission of England and Wales.

Financial Review

The Charities current account will be maintained with a minimum balance of £5,000. This can be increased with trustee approval for expected exceptional items. The charity does not have a deposit account.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have no defined policy in terms of the levels of resources held. However, the trustees regularly on a quarterly basis review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the organisations continuing obligations and to provide our services for a minimum of 6 months.

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of governing document

The Friends of Eastwoods Park is governed by a Constitution of Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed at the AGM, however the trustees may appoint a new trustee to temporarily fill a vacancy or to bring in additional skills or experience. Such a trustee will retire at the next AGM but can then be re-appointed.

The Trustees, where practicable, are involved in the work of the Friends of Eastwoods Park.

Our Constitution prohibits Trustees from being employees of the organisation.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees have appointed a Project Manager and Operations Team to oversee the day to day activities of the organisation. They report to and are accountable to the Trustees.

The team also consists of volunteers who are involved in all aspects of the work of the organisation.

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The Annual Report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 31st January 2025 and signed on its behalf by :



Russell Greig, Project Manager.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 31st January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Greig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Russell Greig
Project Manager

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Friends of Eastwoods Park.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 4th April 2024, details of which are summarised here. The full report is available on request.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Friends of Eastwoods Park you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act")

I report in respect of my examination of the Friends of Eastwoods Park's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention with the examination giving me cause to believe that any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Friends of Eastwoods Park as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirement concerning the form and content of accounts 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 no concerns and 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne O'Brien', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Lynne O'Brien

Balance Sheet as at 4 April 2024

Current Assets	Total year ended 4 April 2024 £	Total year ended 4 April 2023 £
Cash in Bank and in hand	30,176	21,985
Creditors amounts falling due	(61)	(802)
Net Assets	<u>30,145</u>	<u>21,183</u>
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	8,681	4,135
Restricted funds	21,495	17,850
Total Funds	<u>30,176</u>	<u>21,985</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(802)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>30,145</u>	<u>21,183</u>

Friends of Eastwoods Park
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period
For the year ended 4 April 2024

	Total year ended 4 April 2024 £	Total year ended 4 April 2023 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies	48,373	60,150
National Lottery Community Fund (RC North East and Cumbria)	55,297	
Other trading activities	27,835	25,798
Total income	<u>131,505</u>	<u>85,948</u>
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	(21,089)	(24,427)
Charitable activities	(25,504)	(39,667)
Overheads	(76,024)	(67,956)
Total expenditure	<u>(122,617)</u>	<u>(132,050)</u>
Net income	(8,888)	(46,102)
Net movement in funds	(8,888)	(46,102)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	21,183	67,285
Total funds carried forward	<u>30,071</u>	<u>21,183</u>

Friends of Eastwoods Park
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period
For the year ended 4 April 2024

	Total year ended 4 April 2024 £	Total year ended 4 April 2023 £
Donations and legacies		
Donations from individuals and groups	8,714	18,955
Fundraising Activities	962	2,150
Northumberland Lottery Supporters	612	869
Grant from Local Authority	450	10,500
Grant from Karbon Homes	1,500	1,700
Grant from Prudhoe Town Council	8,500	4,000
Grant from National Lottery Community Fund (RC North East and Cumbria)	55,297	8,000
Grant from Northumberland Estates	2,500	
Grant from former Prudhoe Community Workshop Trust	20,000	
Grant from Rothley Trust	900	
Grant from Community Action Northumberland	900	
Grant from Catherine Cookson's Trust	500	
Donation from Prudhoe Town Football Club	1,906	
Donation from Essity	500	
HMRC Gift Aid	429	
Grant from Northern Power Grid Foundation	-	13,476
Grant from Greggs Foundation	-	500
	<u>103,670</u>	<u>60,150</u>
 Other trading activities		
Income from Miners Lamp Community Cafe	27,835	25,798
	<u>27,835</u>	<u>25,798</u>
 Raising funds		
Fundraising costs	(21,089)	(24,427)
	<u>(21,089)</u>	<u>(24,427)</u>

	Total year ended 4 April 2024 £	Total year ended 4 April 2023 £
Charitable Activities		
Charitable Purposes	(25,505)	(39,667)
Wages and Salaries	(54,790)	(50,342)
Pension Contributions (inc in above	-	(1,403)
Motor Expenses	(3,101)	(1,914)
Internet and IT	(1,658)	(1,928)
Insurance	(1,040)	(1,210)
Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals	(1,034)	(2,328)
Bank Charges	(357)	(319)
Professional fees and subscriptions	(6,890)	(2,613)
Rent and Rates	(1,658)	(1,312)
Equipment Hire and Leasing	(3,778)	(3,703)
Marketing	(103)	(494)
Printing and Stationary	(1,281)	(390)
PPE and Training	(334)	-
	<u>(101,529)</u>	<u>(107,623)</u>

Friends of Eastwoods Park

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 4 April 2024

Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of Preparation

The Friends of Eastwoods park meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and Endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. When performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance and constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered a pass to test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of

the Corporate Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Financial guarantee contracts

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties not any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are purchased and written off in the year of purchase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are set aside for specific purposes as directed by the grant provider at the discretion of the trustees.

Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance Costs

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 4 April 2024 £	Total 4 April 2023 £
Staff costs				
Wages and salaries and pensions	40,000	14,790	54,790	50,342
Employer Pension Contributions	-	-	-	1,403
Training	185	149	334	-
Sub-Contractors Costs	-	-	-	-
Legal and professional fees	4,743	2,147	6,890	1,047
Accountancy Fees	-	509	509	-
Bank charges and fees	-	357	357	319
	<u>44,928</u>	<u>17,952</u>	<u>62,880</u>	<u>53,111</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The Friends of Eastwoods Park had 6 employees during the period.

Employment Status	No	Notes
Full Time	1	This post was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (RC North East and Cumbria)
Part Time	1	This post was funding by the National Lottery Community Fund (RC North East and Cumbria)
Part Time	1	This post is funded by income generated from trading activity
Casual	3	These posts are part of our 'Youth Employment Scheme' and are funded by income generated from trading activity

Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	4 April 2024 £	4 April 2023 £
Other taxation and social security	-	-
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	- _____	- _____
	- _____	- _____

Financial guarantee contracts

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.