



Friends of Cotteridge Park

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2021



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Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Objectives

The charity's objectives which are contained in its Constitution are:

For the benefit of the inhabitants of the surrounding area of Cotteridge Park and visitors to the area ("the beneficiaries"), the promotion of the provision of facilities for education, recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the beneficiaries without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) The promotion, support and improvement of Cotteridge Park.*
- b) Organising programmes of physical, educational, creative and other activities in the interests of social welfare, primarily in and around the park.*

Covid-19

Limitations on people meeting and the use of indoor space meant that Covid-19 was still having an impact on the work of the volunteers in 2021.

When restrictions were lifted over the summer we were able to re-open, in line with Public Health and Government Guidelines, and deliver some activities again.. Anxieties about increasing numbers in the winter meant events like our Christmas Carols had to be cancelled at short notice.

Uncertainty about the lifting of restrictions meant that the trustees decided that CoCoMAD, in its usual format, would need to be cancelled for a second year. Instead of the usual CoCoMAD we held a series of small CoCoPopUp events - that could be adapted to suit the restrictions as they changed.

Despite the devastating impact of Covid-19, FoCP has managed to keep going and maintain a range of activities to promote engagement and wellbeing and we acknowledge the commitment and tireless efforts of the many volunteers who have supported the work of FoCP throughout; making and keeping the park such a safe and special place for so many people.

2021 in Cotteridge Park



The Shed, our new community building, celebrated its first birthday in August 2021.

Despite the limitations imposed by covid The Shed has realised its promise and become a key part of our community.

The volunteers contributed at least 6686 hours of their time so that The Shed could be open to the public for 2842 hours during the year.

The Knit and Natter group.

As well as the knitting/textiles group The Shed has hosted a drawing group and a book group as well as a peri-natal mental health group from the local Mother and Baby service.

The Shed providing Sustainability for FoCP and our Natural Health Service

It is key to the work of FoCP that all activities are free at the point of delivery - like the NHS. Using grants, donations and income generated by The Shed we can ensure that no one from the local community is excluded from the benefits of participation because of cost.

We are absolutely delighted with the way The Shed has been supported by the local community. It is now firmly established in the life of the community.

Not only is The Shed appreciated by the community, but it is also funded by them. The income generated by sales of refreshments and merchandise already covers the running costs of the building, plus generating some additional funds to pay for the activities that the community wants.



We have also seen an increase in our donations as The Shed provides a place where conversations about the work of the Friends of Cotteridge Park volunteers can happen and donations can be made.

Cotteridge Park Volunteers

There is a regular team of about 20 volunteers look after the park's infrastructure - gardening and conservation.

The trustee team take on the legal and administrative functions and the Events volunteers organise CoCoMAD and other events (when restrictions allow)

To date, just over 140 people have signed up to join the Shed volunteer team and more are continuing to join. Almost all of these people are new volunteers who have not previously volunteered in the park.

Volunteers range in age from 8 years old through to those in their 80s, a mix that represents our community.

We now have a team of enthusiastic, trained baristas of all ages and lots of people with their Level 2 Food Hygiene certificates.

And in 2021 – 6 of our Shed volunteers went on to paid work in catering.

Activities in Cotteridge Park

One of the key reasons to have a new community building was to enable the Friends of Cotteridge Park to deliver new services and activities for our community. Since The Shed

opened we have been able to develop new services, welcome new groups and adapt services that had been halted by covid and/or needed new ways to work.



Young People in Cotteridge Park

One of the impacts of the lockdowns – especially during the school closures - was that more young people were in the park for longer periods.

The learning from the project in 2020 was shared with other friends of parks groups through BOSF - which led to a joint project with Friends of Bournville Park funded by Awards for All.

The youth workers have added a great service to the community, and we are now looking for additional funding to enable this work to continue. During the first phase of the project 300+ interactions with young people were recorded.

We are continuing to make links and learn so that more open spaces and friends groups can support young people in their communities.

Unfortunately, our work with schools continued to be limited by the pandemic. The forest school sessions in school time didn't restart until September 2021.

Conservation and Gardening Volunteers

Our young (and old) gardening volunteers were able to return from mid-2021 and contributed lots of time and enthusiasm to keeping the park looking great.

It was wonderful to see an increase in the number of volunteers after the pandemic with regular teams of 20 volunteers at the twice a week sessions.

2021 saw the park being awarded it's 9th Green Flag



Clearing Himalayan Balsam Summer 2021

GOATS; Getting on at The Shed

From Spring 2021 the GOATS were, at last, able to meet in person. The group has organised a series of activities based on their enthusiasms -

from scrabble and poker to trips to beer festivals and a fascination with the pipe that brings water from the Elan Valley to Birmingham.



The aim of the GOATS project is to provide older people, with activities and a place to meet as part of a mental and physical well-being programme.

A spin-off from the GOATS was the **Cotteridge Musical Misfits**. An opportunity for amateur musicians to meet up and play together. They found all sorts of ways to play together - often outdoors and socially distanced.

Activities in Cotteridge Park Supported by FOCP in 2021

- Bicycle Polo
- SwingFit
- Tai Chi
- Roam
- Zumba
- Tree Walks
- Walking Netball
- Wood Carving
- Walking Groups

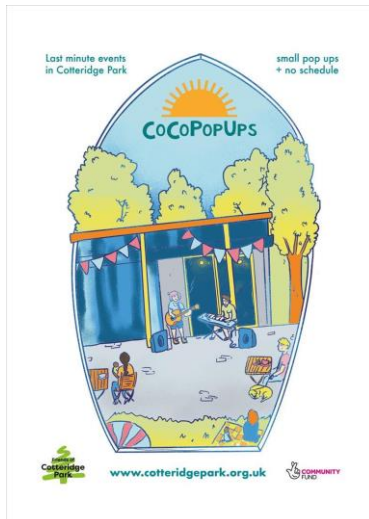


Swingfit meeting even in sub zero temperatures

Many of these activities have been supported with funding from Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme. Others, like the Bike Polo and the Zumba, have been delivered by volunteers.

The **Pre-Schoolers Forest School** was able to return in mid-2021, when restrictions allowed, and continued to provide an introduction to nature for our youngest park users - as well as support for their families and carers.

This is able to take place thanks to the support of the Birmingham City Council Ranger Team.

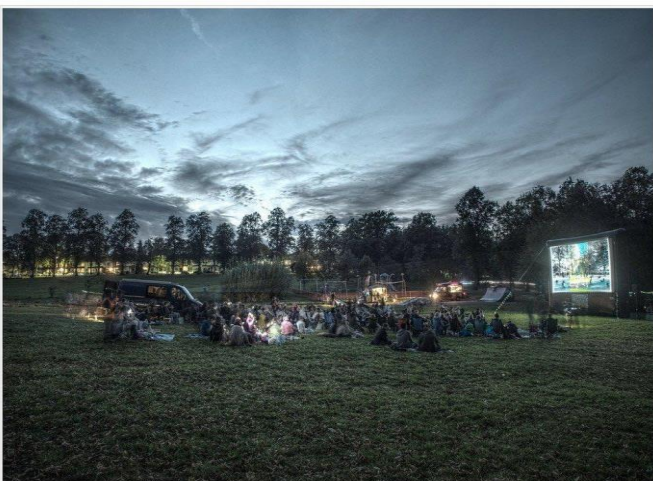


CoCoPopUps

For only the 2nd time, in more than 25 years, CoCoMAD couldn't take place in its usual format.

The volunteers arranged a series of pop up events to fill the gaps. The aim was to include little bits of a big CoCoMAD. There were concerts, woodland activities and science events spread over the Summer - as restrictions allowed.

Cinema in Cotteridge Park



With funding from BFI, held over from 2020 because of the pandemic, we were able to hold a second free, family film screening in the park. This was a lovely way to bring our community back together after the long periods of isolation.

Using our previous experience, and working with Film Hub Midlands, we were able to support two other Birmingham Friends groups host cinema in their parks at Handsworth and George's Parks.

Future Plans

At the end of 2021 we were again seeing covid restrictions returning - if not mandated by the Government then by the community seeking to protect its more vulnerable members.

We took the decision to cancel our Christmas events and some of the regular activities - and as the new year began we couldn't be sure when we would be able to return to our full programme.

For 2022 we want to bring back a full scale CoCoMAD.

2022 will also see the Commonwealth Games come to Birmingham and we hope to ensure that the community around Cotteridge Park is able to take part.

At the end of 2021 we received funding from the *Places Called Home* project funded by Ikea and the National Lottery Community Fund. This project will enable us to develop engagement and participation strategies so that more people can benefit from the physical activity and social contact offered by the charity

Whatever the restrictions we know that our volunteers will continue to contribute in whatever way they can to make living here a welcoming, connected experience.

Thanks and acknowledgements

None of the work of FoCP would be possible without the fantastic support of our generous donors and supporters. "Thank you" from all the volunteers and park users.

- Cotteridge Quaker Meeting
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Ikea
- Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme
- BFI/Film Hub Midlands

Thanks to all the generous individual donors and local businesses that supported The Shed, the CoCoPopUps and the work of the volunteers across the park.

Thanks to all our friends at Birmingham City Council Parks (and beyond) and Birmingham Open Spaces Forum



CoCoPopUps at
The Shed

Autumn 2021

Financial review

Income and expenditure for 2021 was in line with budgets. The building project (The Shed) was complete and had met its funding target.

We were successful in obtaining grants which enabled FoCP to continue to provide activities for free.

The Shed provides us with an additional income stream which has grown as the facility has become established (also helped by the lifting of Covid restrictions).

From an accounting perspective the organisation has introduced a software package to make budgetary management more efficient.

Reserves and reserves policy

Trustees consider that in the current uncertain climate, and in particular the continued reductions in funding for parks and 'softer' social activities, that excluding costs associated with the annual CoCoMAD festival, the charity should aim to hold an unrestricted reserve equivalent to a minimum of 3 months running/delivery costs for park activities and general running costs.

Unrestricted cash funds at the end of 2021 stand at £34K which trustees consider to be in line with the above intent. A further £16k is held in restricted funds for projects to continue in 2022.

Although the capital spending on The Shed is complete there is a continued need to focus on grants and donations to fund activities that will benefit the local community.

We expect The Shed will continue to generate income to help support activities in the park but some of the income will need to be set aside for repairs and maintenance for the building.

This year's budget has been drawn up to enable trustees to monitor spend against our plans. This takes into account additional financial responsibilities in running a building such as cleaning and catering supplies, electricity, repairs, and maintenance.

Structure and Governance

The Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO is a membership organisation for those who enjoy and use Cotteridge Park and was registered as a charity on 21 January 2019. It began its activities on 1 June 2019 following the transfer of funds from the old charity.

The Trustees were appointed on registration, represent the members, and manage the business of the charity on their behalf. The charity has no employees and is run entirely by volunteers.

The charity holds regular management meetings open to all members, and quarterly Trustee meetings. Trustees serve for one year and elections are held each year at the AGM.

Reference and administrative details

Friends of Cotteridge Park

c/o 44 Franklin Road, Birmingham B30 2HG *Registered Charity Number 1181644*

Trustees

Laura Brooks - Chair	Ian Mather – Treasurer
Emma Woolf MBE - Vice Chair	Carole Drury (resigned June 2022)
Max Woolf	Declan Vaughn (resigned January 2022)
Cathal Lynch	Lyndsey Berry (elected June 2021)
Carola Lange - Secretary	Jason Willets (appointed October 2021)

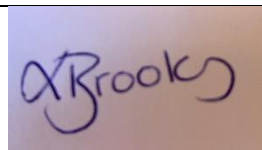
Bankers

Unity Trust Bank, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Independent Examiner

Karen Hanlan, Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited, 1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	20 September 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO on the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Karen Hanlan, ACA, ACIE
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Ltd
1 Saracen Close
Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date:

Receipts and payments
accounts
Year ended 31 December 2021

	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts				
Grants	-	44,315	44,315	112,599
Donations	7,634	-	7,634	36,534
Income from activities	25,945	-	25,945	8,130
Bank Interest	-	-	-	85
Total receipts	33,579	44,315	77,894	157,348
Payments				
Fundraising costs	1,283	-	1,283	9,414
CoCoMAD event	-	6,647	6,647	13,232
CoCoPopUps	-	2,488	2,488	-
Park Building Project	1,000	-	1,000	170,452
Science Project	-	4,970	4,970	2,861
Youth Worker	-	-	-	4,500
GOATS project	-	204	204	3,546
Japanese Cinema project	-	4,990	4,990	-
Happy Healthy Cotteridge	-	2,418	2,418	-
Music & Movement project	-	9,338	9,338	-
Other activities	-	-	-	1,560
Catering supplies for 'The Shed'	10,329	-	10,329	-
Costs of running 'The Shed'	2,068	-	2,068	7,050
Insurance	1,175	-	1,175	605
Independent Examiner's Fee	750	-	750	1,100
Administrative expenses	3,053	-	3,053	562
Total payments	19,658	31,055	50,713	214,882
Net receipts over payments	13,921	13,260	27,181	(57,534)
Transfer between funds	(990)	990	-	-

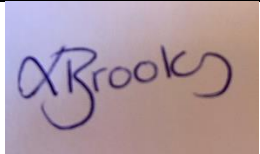
Cash funds at beginning of year	21,127	2,044	23,171	80,705
Cash funds at end of year end	34,058	16,294	50,352	23,171

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

B1 Cash Funds	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 31.12.21	Total funds 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£
- Current account	16,139	18,774	34,913	12,061
- Deposit account	20,000	-	20,000	11,085
- Square account balance	111	-	111	-
- Petty cash	-	-	-	25
- Debtors	-	1,600	1,600	-
- Creditors	(2,192)	(4,080)	(6,272)	-
Total	34,058	16,294	50,352	23,171

B2 Restricted fund balances	Fund balance at 1/1/2021	Receipts	Payments	Transfer between funds	Fund balance at 31/12/21
	£	£	£	£	£
GOATS Project	204	-	(204)	-	-
CoCoMAD	-	7,950	(6,647)	-	1,303
Youth Worker Project	-	1,640	-	1,840	3,480
Japanese Cinema Project	-	4,000	(4,990)	990	-
Happy Healthy Cotteridge	-	8,620	(2,418)	-	6,202
Music & Movement project	-	9,748	(9,338)	-	410
Places Called Home	-	4,887	-	-	4,887
Science Boxes	-	4,970	(4,970)	-	-
CoCoPopUps	-	2,500	(2,488)	-	12
Story Project	1,840	-	-	(1,840)	-
Total	2,044	44,315	(31,055)	990	16,294

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Signature:	Print name	Date
	Laura Brooks Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park	20 September 2022

Notes to the accounts

Restricted funding for 2021

Happy Healthy Cotteridge and Music and Movement

Funding provided by Selly Oak Constituency Neighbourhood Network to run a project to improve the health and wellbeing of older members of the community.

CoCoPopUps and CoCoBandstand

Funding provided by National Lottery Community Fund - Local Connections project and Awards for All

Japanese Cinema Project

funding carried over from 2020 for a screening in the park

Places Called Home

funding from Ikea and National Lottery Community Fund to increase engagement and participation.

Youth Workers in Cotteridge Park

funding from Cotteridge Quaker Meeting and supporting an application to Awards for All with Friends of Bournville Park. Some funding also re-directed, with permission from the funder, from a storytelling project that had to be cancelled because of the pandemic

Science Boxes

funding from the Royal Society of Chemists for a joint project with Discover Materials to deliver science activities in the park.

Assets - The Shed



Building works & fitting out of 'The Shed' were completed in 2020 at a total cost of £219,000. The Shed is a venue for indoor and outdoor activities as well as providing a meeting place & café. The Shed is run entirely by volunteers.