



Annual Report & Accounts 2023

Friends of Cotteridge Park is a registered charity in England and Wales 1181644.





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Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their **Annual Report and Accounts** for the year ended 31 December 2023



Image: Couch to 5k graduates

Objectives

The charity's public benefit objectives, following guidance from the Charity Commission, are contained in its Constitution and 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 the 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 the 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.



5 2023 – Back to Normal

2023 was definitely the year where we felt that covid was behind us.

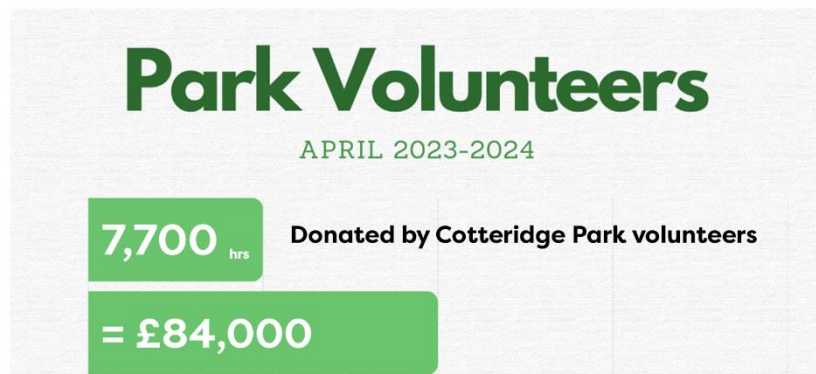
From the Art Group to Zumba all the park activities were welcomed back by the community.

With the support provided by our funders we have been delighted by our increased ability to respond to the needs of our community. We have been able to offer activities to promote mental and physical wellbeing and to create a space where everyone is welcome and no one needs to feel lonely.

For example we were able to extend the Italian beginners' group into a “Language Café”. This provided opportunities for refugees, expats and keen learners to meet up weekly, share language skills and support people far from home.



6 Volunteering in Cotteridge Park



Although we get some great support from our friends at Birmingham City Council Parks Service most of the work looking after the park is done by Cotteridge Park volunteers.

In 2023 Cotteridge Park volunteers recorded 7,700 hours of work worth over £84,000 (using the living wage)

Cotteridge Park Volunteers;

- Garden
- Staff The Shed
- Run sessions
- Look after the charity/are trustees
- Maintain the park's infrastructure
- Make CoCoMAD happen

Our youngest volunteers are 14 – some from the local secondary school come one day a week to experience volunteering, others are volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Our oldest volunteers are over 70.

Whatever their age or abilities there are volunteering opportunities for all.

7 Welcome to The Shed



Image: Todd, our new Shed Manager in his CoCoMAD finery

Famous for its toasted teacakes and warm welcome, in its 3rd year, The Shed has matured into the social centre of the park and the local community.

Whether you just want the loo, someone to chat to or hot soup on a cold day you'll be made very welcome.

Thanks to the generosity of the volunteers The Shed is open 7 days a week running a busy programme of activities.

All the income generated by The Shed goes into providing services for the community.

In 2023 The Shed, and Cotteridge Park, gained it's first member of staff. Todd Jennings, the multi lingual brain behind our Language Café, has developed the role of Shed Manager to include an amazing ability to encourage, support and train our team of volunteers.

And as you can see, he knows how to wear a sequinned top

8 Free Activities in Cotteridge Park

The aim of the Friends of Cotteridge Park is to offer our community a variety of activities to enable them to combat loneliness and improve their physical and mental health in their local park.

Whatever your age, ability or interests there is something for everyone.

- Knitting, painting, crafts and woodcarving
- Zumba, yoga, SwingFit and Tai Chi
- Walking and running groups
- Social groups for older people
- Youth group, forest school and holiday activities

All these sessions are free to attend. We want to ensure that everyone can try something that is good for them without worrying about the cost.

Keeping these sessions free is only possible thanks to the support of our kind funders, donations from the generous people who visit the park and the income generated by The Shed.



Image: SwingFit on a chilly Winter Saturday



Image: Meg at the Crafternoon

Drawing Cotteridge Park

Let's draw (or paint) our beautiful park together!

Join other local amateur artists and be inspired to draw or paint by the park.

Bring your materials to The Shed
Tuesdays 12pm
FREE



FANCY DANCING YOURSELF FITTER?
DON'T KNOW YOUR RIGHT FROM YOUR LEFT?

SWING FIT

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
ADULTS, CHILDREN, IT'S GREAT FOR BEGINNERS



SATURDAYS AT 10AM

FREE!

MEET AT THE SHED

Selly Oak
Love
Laugh
Live

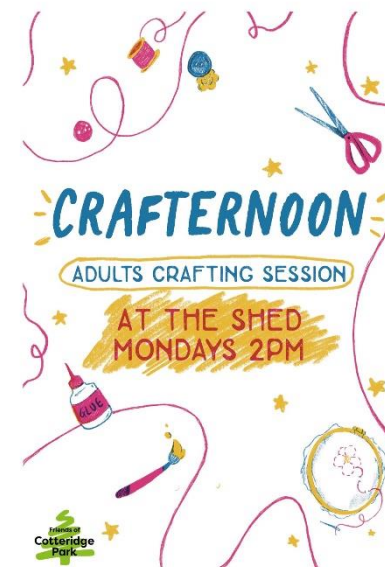
Cotteridge
Park



BABY BUGGY STROL

TUESDAYS AT 1PM

MEET AT THE SHED



CRAFTERNOON

ADULTS CRAFTING SESSION

AT THE SHED
MONDAYS 2PM

Cotteridge
Park



BRING YOUR WOOL, FABRIC, NEEDLES
AND HOOKS AND JOIN IN

WEDNESDAYS AT 10.30AM

MEET AT THE SHED

Cotteridge
Park

PRE-SCHOOLERS FOREST SCHOOL



TUESDAYS AT 11:30

MEET AT THE SHED

Cotteridge
Park

SHED SOUP



MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
12.30-2

AT THE SHED
PAY WHAT YOU FEEL

Cotteridge
Park

ZUMBA With Addie

Zumba is an easy to follow, Latin-
inspired, dance fitness party

FREE - All abilities welcome

Children must be accompanied by an adult

in Cotteridge Park

Saturdays 10.30am

At The Shed

Cotteridge
Park

THE SHED

CoCoMAD 2023

CoCoMAD 2023 saw more than 6,000 local residents coming to the park for a most amazing party.

There was wonderful live music from local performers, great food, forest adventures, CircusMash performances & workshops and a whole field of scientists creating experiments for everyone to try.

New for CoCoMAD 2023 was the CoCoCorner – a space that came from the project – Make Space for Girls. Co-Created by the Cotteridge Park Youth Group and Outdoor Places Unusual Spaces. Focussing on supporting young women and girls to make the park their space.



Future Plans

For 2024 there are a number of plans we want to put into action

- Refurbishment of the playing courts area so that they meet the needs of the local community – particularly the increasing number of young people using the courts to play basketball and Bike Polo – due to start October 2024
- Implement the new the new management plan for the stream in the park to deal with the erosion of the banks and to increase the health of the stream for wildlife and learning



Thank You

None of the work for our community would be possible without the generous support of our funders in 2023.

- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Edgar E Lawley Foundation
- Grimmit Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Sport England
- Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme
- BUPA Foundation
- Green Hall Foundation
- William A Cadbury Trust
- Saintbury Trust
- CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust
- George Fentham Trust

And our friends at Birmingham City Council,
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum & Birmingham
Community Matters



Image: Cotteridge Park Youth Club's Lego Printing Workshop

Financial Review

Financial review

Income and expenditure for 2023 was in line with budgets.

We were successful in obtaining grants which enabled FoCP to continue to provide activities for free for the benefit of the local community.

The accounting software introduced last year has helped make budgetary management more efficient.

The trustees are aware that as the charity continues to grow that more support is required to ensure good record keeping a reporting.

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 2023 stand at £74K which trustees consider to be in line with the above intent. A further £17k is held in restricted funds for projects to continue in 2024.

There is always 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 1 employee and is run entirely by volunteers.

The charity holds regular management meetings open to all members, and quarterly Trustee meetings.

Reference and administrative details

Friends of Cotteridge Park
c/o 44 Franklin Road, Birmingham B30 2HG

Registered Charity Number 1181644

Trustees

Ian Billups – Treasurer (from Nov. 23)

Ian Mather (Treasurer till November 2023)

Deborah Wallis (from Nov.23)

Hattie Lloyd (from April 23)

Laura Brooks – Chair

Max Woolf –Vice Chair

Carola Lange – Secretary

Cathal Lynch

Jason Willets

Emma Woolf MBE

Stephanie Little (from Feb 23)

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, by the Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:

Print name: Laura Brooks

Date: 30 September 2024

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 2023.

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 2023 which are set out on pages 16 to 17.

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.

Receipts and payments accounts

Year ended 31 December
2023

| | Un- restricted Funds £ | Restrict ed Funds £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Receipts | | | | |
| Grants | 20,200 | 35,069 | 55,269 | 57,478 |
| Donations | 6,582 | - | 6,582 | 9,399 |
| Income from activities | 70,793 | 3,995 | 74,788 | 57,041 |
| Bank Interest | 1,486 | - | 1,486 | 240 |
| Total receipts | 99,061 | 39,064 | 138,125 | 124,158 |
| Payments | | | | |
| Fundraising costs | 5,864 | - | 5,864 | 5,389 |
| CoCoMAD event | 25,867 | 5,995 | 31,862 | 27,113 |
| Cinema project | - | 8,036 | 8,036 | 329 |
| Forest School | - | 2,850 | 2,850 | 4,476 |
| Swingfit Activity Sessions | 1,178 | 19,606 | 20,784 | 15,651 |
| SprayArt | - | - | - | 3,520 |
| Catering supplies for 'The Shed' | 16,064 | 3,159 | 19,223 | 18,740 |
| Costs of running 'The Shed' | 10,050 | 1,825 | 11,875 | 5,915 |
| Shed Manager | 9,766 | 10,039 | 19,805 | 4,448 |
| Gardening/conservation costs | 576 | 242 | 818 | - |
| Volunteer costs | 399 | - | 399 | - |
| Insurance | 2,085 | - | 2,085 | 1,212 |
| Independent Examiner's Fee | 900 | - | 900 | 900 |
| Administrative expenses | 3,404 | 1,622 | 5,026 | 4,302 |
| Total payments | 76,153 | 53,374 | 129,527 | 91,995 |
| Net receipts over payments | 22,908 | (14,310) | 8,598 | 32,163 |
| Transfer between funds | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - |
| Cash funds at beginning of year | 51,396 | 31,119 | 82,515 | 50,352 |
| Cash funds at end of year end | 74,304 | 16,809 | 91,113 | 82,515 |

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

| Cash Funds | Un-restricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds 31.12.23 | Total funds 31.12.22 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| - Current account | 12,249 | 16,809 | 29,058 | 23,719 |
| - Deposit account | 62,726 | - | 62,726 | 61,241 |
| - Square account balance | (424) | - | (424) | (198) |
| - Credit card balance | (697) | - | (697) | - |
| - Debtors | 805 | - | 805 | |
| - Creditors | (355) | - | (355) | (2,247) |
| Total | 74,304 | 16,809 | 91,113 | 82,515 |

| Restricted fund balances Funder | Project | Fund balance at 1/1/2023 £ | Receipts £ | Payments £ | Fund balance at 31/12/23 £ |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Various in Tesco, Cotteridge Quakers | Youth Worker Project Happy Healthy | 4,805 | - | (4,805) | - |
| Near Neighbours 21/22 | Cotteridge | 2,742 | | (2,742) | - |
| National Lottery Community Fund/Ikea | Places Called Home | 2,746 | - | (2,746) | - |
| National Lottery Community Fund | CoCoPopUps Soup Lunch | 12 | - | (12) | - |
| Eveson Foundation | Club | 3,029 | - | (3,029) | - |
| Sport England | Couch to £5k SprayArt | 2,217 | - | (2,217) | - |
| Heart of England | Graffiti | 669 | | (669) | - |
| National Lottery | Forest | | - | | |
| Platinum Jubilee Fund | Schools | 3,506 | | (3,506) | - |
| Doyly Carte | Woodcarving | 1,700 | - | (1,700) | - |
| | Forest | | 1,900 | | |
| Quaker | Schools Warm sessions in | 1,250 | | (3,150) | - |
| | the Shed | | - | | |
| National Grid | Thai Chi | 3,032 | | (3,032) | - |
| Near Neighbours 23/24 | | 5,411 | (996) | (4,415) | - |
| Royal Society of Chemistry | CoCoMAD | - | 3,995 | (3,995) | - |
| Asda Foundation | - | - | 400 | (400) | - |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Curly Wurly | | | | |
| | Bench & | | 2,025 | | |
| BUPA Foundation | Trees | - | | (242) | 1,783 |
| | Warm | | 2,000 | | |
| Green Hall Foundation | Sessions | - | | - | 2,000 |
| | Summer | | | | |
| National Lottery | Holiday | | | | |
| Community Fund | Youth | | 5,020 | | |
| Million Hours Fund | Programme | - | | (772) | 4,248 |
| | Community | | | | |
| National Lottery | Outdoor | | | | |
| Community Fund | Cinema | - | 9,960 | (8,036) | 1,924 |
| | Stuff to do if | | | | |
| Birmingham City | You're over | | | | |
| Council | 50 yrs | - | 9,320 | (3,930) | 5,390 |
| | Something | | | | |
| Sport England | for Everyone | - | 5,440 | (3,976) | 1,464 |
| | | | <hr/> | | |
| Total | | 31,119 | 39,064 | (53,374) | 16,809 |
| | | | <hr/> | | |

Notes to the accounts

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 has an employed Shed Manager and the rest of the team are volunteers.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by the Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park on 30 September 2024

Signature

Laura Brooks - Trustee