



Friends of Nuttall Park, Ramsbottom, Bury

Annual Report 2023

Friends of Nuttall Park
Chair's Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

2023 has been an exciting year and we have again completed many projects and been involved in the organisation of various events thanks to our group of multi-talented volunteers.

The year started with Bury Council sending out tenders for the completion of the bandstand. Leander Architectural were chosen to do the work and we were very pleased with this. It was agreed that Friends of Nuttall Park would share the costs 50/50 with Bury Council. Leander, part of Middle Peak Engineering, began by installing the roof so the structure was watertight. The embellishments which were in storage in Ramsbottom were transported to Leander's workshop where they were painted in RS6005 Green in keeping with the metalwork in other areas of the park. The steel uprights were painted on site and the balustrades, cornices etc. were fixed and made good. A ceiling was fitted and the handrails to the steps were fitted in October.

The Easter Bunny paid a visit during the Easter weekend with small chocolate eggs for the children.

Our big event of 2023 was a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III on the 7th May. We organised this along with Ramsbottom Rotary & we are very grateful for their help.

There was a variety of stalls including those of many local community groups who were raising funds for their own group. Food & drink stalls & the Tea Room & Cake Stall were very popular.

The bandstand was in use from 12 to 4:30 with Goodshaw Brass Band, Shohorn (a group of local secondary school pupils) playing rock music, Ramshackle Wailers (a local choir), a Brass trio and Rossendale Ukulele Band performing for a large audience enjoying sunshine and a picnic on the grass.

The whole event was very successful and raised £1850 profit from donations.

We held our Love Your Park Week from 5 to 13th August when the Tea Room was open each afternoon with craft and outdoor or table games provided to entertain people. Ramsbottom Running Club organised the Ramsbottom Summer Mile on the Tuesday evening and it was a very successful 9 days.

The bandstand was officially opened on 1st October by the Mayor of Bury, Councillor Sandra Walmsley. Besses o' th' Barn Band and Rossendale Ukulele Band played wonderful music on the bandstand & there were food and drink stalls, a Cake Stall & a Tea Room. This was an excellent occasion, the culmination of much hard work and well worth waiting for.

We hope to continue holding events in 2024 to include a performer on the bandstand on the first Sunday of each summer month. We are also encouraging other individuals and groups to use the bandstand and park.

We had a spooky Lantern Parade at the end of October. It was very popular and well supported and the children enjoyed parading around the park with their lanterns lit at dusk. We were lucky with the weather as this affects the number who attend any of our events held outside.

In December, 5 volunteers organised a Seasonal Craft Day where children were able to pick up the parts to make a reindeer, snowman etc. to make at home. It was held inside the Base and was very successful. We are very grateful to the people who turn their hands to many different aspects of volunteering.

Santa Claus visited the Base on Christmas Eve from 11 to 3pm and this has become a regular part of our Christmas celebrations along with festive treats and an amazingly decorated and lit Tea Room.

We have continued to help keep Nuttall Park well maintained with a number of Task Days. These tasks included litter picking, leaf clearing, drain clearing, Tea Room cleaning, jet washing & we were also able to

fund the refurbishment of the noticeboards and the handrails to the bandstand steps from our events and Tea Room donations.

We are waiting for an extension to the patio behind the Base Tea Room funded by 2023 donations when weather permits.

The petanque (boules) pitch has been used more frequently by the local U3a group and another group of regular users helped with its maintenance and added more gravel.

We received a donation of £2000 from Ramsbottom Business Group in June and this has been used to purchase 4 carved wooden statues to be installed around the park in spring 2024. Stubbins Trust donated £250 which will go towards one of the musical Sundays during the summer.

'The Gardening Group' were busy from March to November as Steve's report shows -

Every week includes the general tasks of weeding, pruning and tidying all the beds we look after, and mowing and edging the surrounds where appropriate. We also clear weeds and debris from the paths around the park. In 2023 we completely revamped the existing Butterfly Bed with a new surround, lining and new stones which really shows off the butterfly shape. We have started to refresh the planting and will continue that in 2024. We built a Bug Hotel from old pallets and a Hibernaculum (an underground shelter) for hedgehogs. We revamped the planting in the Carpark Bed & removed a dead phormium from another & planted that up as well.

We created a new planting area next to the Stumpery, planted another 500 daffodil bulbs, and put new shrubs in the Tennis Court Bed. Two of the new rhododendrons should be in flower there this Spring. We continued to clear and plant up the 'Walkways' around the car park and the Boules area.

This coming year we plan to overhaul the circular Centre Bed with a raised bed in the middle and new planting along with tweaking the planting in the Prairie and Jubilee Beds.

We aim to redesign the Monument Bed and add new plants as well and we will also soon be planting 500 snowdrops. We also aim to look at the two now disused Incredible Edible beds and see what we can do with them.'

Our efforts have been well received by those who use Nuttall Park and the Tea Room is well managed and provides a very good income from donations. We have welcomed 4 teenagers accompanied by a parent or guardian who help in the Tea Room as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award or School Star Award.

It is good to have young people who are interested in helping the community and we hope that it encourages them to volunteer more as they get older.

The Base Tea Room is as popular as ever and, as the Treasurer's financial report shows, the annual profit from donations has increased again this year.

All our events were successful and resulted in donations helping Friends of Nuttall Park to commit to projects

which help to keep Nuttall Park as a beautiful Green Flag Park.

Friends of Nuttall Park would not exist without the help and enthusiasm of a small band of volunteers who turn out in all weathers to help do a number of things.

Many thanks to you all & we hope to join together in 2024 to do more wonderful things for Nuttall Park.

Gwenda Newton

Chair, Friends of Nuttall Park

5th February 2024

5th April 2024

Registered Charity number: 1181981

Friends of Nuttall Park Annual Accounts to 31/12/2023

Monetary Assets

Account	31/12/2023	Difference this year	31/12/2022
Barclays	closed	-£34,000.00	£34,000.00
Cash Account	£231.36	£165.32	£66.04
Santander	£2,375.55	£145.68	£2,229.87
Tea Room Float	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Epworth Savings	£22,843.43	£22,843.43	
RBS	£601.50	£601.50	
Total	£26,071.84	-£10,244.07	£36,315.91

Summary of Receipts and Payments in 2023 compared to 2022

Receipts

Category	2023	2022
Base	£255.00	£260.00
Donations	£3,325.20	£750.04
Interest	£843.43	
Events	£4,364.38	£3,311.81
Park Improvements		£5,000.00
Tea Room	£13,467.37	£11,670.52
Grand Total	£22,255.38	£20,992.37

Payments

Category	2023	2022
Base	£951.98	£1,147.55
Events	£2896.68	£1,307.90
General Expenses	£582.95	£301.00
Park Improvements	£24,447.70	£9,355.39
Tea Room	£3,620.14	£2,952.48
Grand Total	£32,499.45	£15,064.32

Surplus/Deficit for Year	-£10,244.07	£5,928.05
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Park Improvements in 2023

Bandstand	£21,875
Gardening Club	£1,180
Notice Boards	£1,070
Butterfly Garden	£163
Boules Court	£159

Prepared by John Leyland - Treasurer

5th February 2024