

Friends of Rowntree Park

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 30 September 2023

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CHARITY INFORMATION

For the year ending 30 September 2023

Charity Overview

Registered Charity Name:	Friends of Rowntree Park
Charity Number:	1183948
Principal Office Address:	33 Curzon Terrace York North Yorkshire YO23 1EZ
Trustees:	Lucy Katherine Brown (Appointed 17 April 2023) Agnes Reka Szechy (Appointed 17 April 2023) Edward George Woollard (Appointed 17 April 2023) Polly Louisa Bennett Jane Elen Mackay Matthew David Segar Rebecca Blues Anthony Chester Dr Catherine Jane Mortimer Stephen Dunthorne (Resigned 17 April 2023)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ending 30 September 2023

Introduction

The trustees hereby present the annual report for Friends of Rowntree Park, a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered number 1183948). Friends of Rowntree Park is a charity focused on maintaining and improving Rowntree Park in York.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the year were as follows:

- Lucy Katherine Brown (Appointed 17 April 2023)
- Agnes Reka Szechy (Appointed 17 April 2023)
- Edward George Woollard (Appointed 17 April 2023)
- Polly Louisa Bennett
- Jane Elen Mackay
- Matthew David Segar
- Rebecca Blues
- Anthony Chester
- Dr Catherine Jane Mortimer
- Stephen Dunthorne (Resigned 17 April 2023)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed. Trustees meet quarterly, and all decisions are reached by agreement. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Background

The Friends of Rowntree Park are a registered charity. From 1993-2019, the Friends of Rowntree Park ran as a not-for-profit organisation with a committee leading the day-to-day management of our volunteer activities.

The Friends of Rowntree Park became a charity in June 2019 and trustees were appointed at this time. All trustees and committee members are volunteers.

Our volunteers love Rowntree Park in York and help care for it. Our volunteers do activities such as garden, litter pick, help with wildlife, run community events and projects, as well as focusing on education and mental health and wellbeing.

Objectives and Activities

Our vision is for The Friends to be a well-resourced and sustainable group of volunteers and staff focused on enhancing the value of the park as a cherished, thriving, green space at the heart of our local community.

We aim to the quality of life for residents and visitors through use of the park and its facilities, enabling and delivering a range of activities that engage all sectors of the community.

Our priorities are:

1. To continue to offer a range of services and opportunities to park users and the local community.
2. To increase resilience and robustness of resources so the long-term future of The Friends is assured.
3. To expand the range of services and opportunities offered, subject to building on the resources available.

Our strategy focuses on four main themes: Education, Conservation, Wellbeing and Recreation. We run a membership scheme where anyone can join the Friends of Rowntree Park. This money helps fund the work we do.

We have a small group of dedicated volunteers that want to make Rowntree Park the best it can be.

We run a range of events for all ages. Many of these tend to focus on natural and 'eco' themes.

For children we have a range of events through the year that include regular events like Forest School, Home Education sessions and the Very Young Friends of Rowntree Park, as well as one-off special events. Adult events also tend to follow a nature/eco theme and range from things like nature crafts, bird watching, art and mindfulness. We also run musical and art events through the summer months when able.

Structure, Governance and Management

Our Trustees and Committee work closely together. In fact, some trustees were originally committee members and still have active roles on the committee too.

Our trustees oversee the strategic planning of the charity. They make sure the Friends plans are in line with the charity's aims and that the charity's funds are handled responsibly.

Our committee members are involved in the day-to-day running of the charity. They plan and run events and activities in line with the charity's aims and objectives. The committee has open/public meetings four times a year in January, April, June and October (AGM). Subgroups also meet throughout the year.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold reserves of no less than three months of ongoing expenditure.

Political Donations

The Friends has no party-political affiliations and does not make political donations.

Financial Accounts

The accounts for the year ending 30 September 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to all charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial

position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They 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.

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant information of which the independent reviewer is unaware, and
- Each trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant financial information that may have a material impact on the financial reports and to establish that the organisation's independent reviewer is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:



Cath Mortimer
Chair of Trustees

Approved by the board on

Date: **14/03/2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the year ending 30 September 2023

I report on the accounts of Friends of Rowntree Park for the year ending 30 September 2023, which are set out on pages 8-13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view", and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met, or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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Nicola Ainscough FCA BSc
Chartered Accountant
Equilibrium Accountants Ltd
48 Goodramgate, York, YO1 7LF

29 February 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 30 September 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
INCOME					
Incoming and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	47,166	2,440	49,606	17,072
Charitable activities	3	-	23,538	23,538	18,244
Other trading activities	4	-	5,124	5,124	5,058
Investments		-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		47,166	31,102	78,268	40,374
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	-	2,143	2,143	2,631
Charitable activities	6	17,802	29,407	47,209	35,253
Other	7	-	2,765	2,765	2,556
Total resources expended		17,802	34,315	52,117	40,440
Net income / (expenditure) for the period		29,364	(3,213)	26,151	(66)
Transfer of funds	8	(2,482)	2,482	-	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward as at 1 Oct 22		12,248	25,276	37,524	37,490
Total funds carried forward as at 30 Sep 23	9	39,130	24,545	63,675	37,524

The notes on pages 10-13 form a part of these financial statements

A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

There is no difference between the net income / (expenditure) for the period above and the historical cost equivalent. All activities are continuing.

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ending 30 September 2023

	Notes	£	As at 30 Sep 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets			-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		-	
Prepayments		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		63,675	
		<u>63,675</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			-
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)			<u>63,675</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<u>63,675</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-
Net Assets			<u>63,675</u>
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted funds			24,545
Restricted funds			39,130
Total Funds			<u>63,675</u>

The notes on pages 10-13 form a part of these financial statements

Trustee benefits: advances, credit and guarantees

During the year no benefits, in the form of advances, credit and guarantees, were conferred upon trustees of the charity.

Guarantees and other financial commitments

During the year no guarantees or other financial commitments were made.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 8-13 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Cath Mortimer
Chair of Trustees

Date: 14/03/2024
.....

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 30 September 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Friends of Rowntree Park is a registered charity in the UK with the Charities Commission, registration number 1183948.

b) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the receipts and payment basis.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the period, are set out below.

c) Compliance with accounting standards

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities for Smaller Entities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective January 2015) – (Charities 'SORP' FRS 102)): the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – Small Entities and other applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

d) Funds structure

Earmarked funds, as shown in the notes to the accounts, represent funds set aside by the trustees for use on specific projects. Amounts shown as Restricted Funds, on the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet, represent funds donated for specific projects in accordance with the Charities Act definition.

e) Income recognition

Revenue is recognised in respect of non-government, non-exchange transactions, donations and funds received for goods and services supplied during the financial period on receipt.

f) Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year the trustees did not receive any remuneration or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, as none were incurred.

2. DONATION AND LEGACIES INCOME

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
General	-	2,440	2,440	2,276
Grants				
Crime Commissioner	10,528	-	10,528	
Two Ridings	1,584	-	1,584	
Yorkshire Water	13,500	-	13,500	
Benenden	1,956	-	1,956	
CYC	8,140	-	8,140	1,177
Sweaty Betty	5,000	-	5,000	
Whitwam Family	5,000	-	5,000	
MIND	1,458	-	1,458	2,635
LNER	-	-	-	10,984
	<u>47,166</u>	<u>2,440</u>	<u>49,606</u>	<u>17,072</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
Membership	-	6,215	6,215	4,852
External Event Booking Income	-	1,181	1,181	2,264
Events Income	-	16,142	16,142	11,128
	-	23,538	23,538	18,244

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
FRP Merchandise	-	3,198	3,198	1,836
Cards	-	-	-	589
Duck Food	-	1,926	1,926	2,633
	-	5,124	5,124	5,058

5. RAISING FUNDS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
Duck Food	-	-	-	793
Bird Food / Feeds	-	20	20	183
Merchandise Expenses	-	579	579	502
Cards – Merchandise	-	751	751	810
Advertising Expenses	-	793	793	343
	-	2,143	2,143	2,631

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
Projects	-	13,048	13,048	6,772
Volunteer Retention	-	383	383	187
Forest School	-	3,656	3,656	4,329
Charity Management	-	12,320	12,320	6,415
Grant Expenses	17,802	-	17,802	17,550
	17,802	29,407	47,209	35,253

7. OTHER

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £	Year to 30 Sep 2022 Total £
General Expenses	-	292	292	186
Insurance	-	514	514	497
Fees	-	927	927	997
Website/IT	-	1,032	1,032	876
	-	2,765	2,765	2,556

8. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

The board of trustees have approved the following reallocation of funds between the restricted and unrestricted fund accounts:

Fund	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £
Bettys	(574)	574	-
Crime Commissioner	138	(138)	-
W2W	(176)	176	-
Yorkshire Water	1,407	(1,407)	-
Benenden	157	(157)	-
CYC Micklegate	(39)	39	-
MIND	(419)	419	-
LNER	(399)	399	-
MSFG – Activities	(104)	104	-
First Transpennine **	(2,473)	2,473	-
	(2,482)	2,482	-

** First Transpennine confirmed during the 2022-23 financial year that the grant issued in the previous financial period was released for all restriction and could be treated as a general donation. As such, the remaining funds in the restricted account have been released to unrestricted funds.

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS RECONCILIATION

	Restricted Fund 30 Sep 2022 £	Fund movement £	Year to 30 Sep 2023 Total £
Fund			
Gardening – Propagation Project	273	-	273
Bettys	1,440	(1,440)	-
Crime Commissioner	(138)	10,326	10,188
W2W	176	(176)	-
Yorkshire Water	(1,407)	12,198	10,791
DS Smith	1,500	-	1,500
CYC Micklegate	39	(39)	-
Benenden	(157)	1,218	1,061
MIND	173	(173)	-
LNER Grant	6,822	(6,822)	-
Charities Trust	250	-	250
Belfry (Two Ridings)	-	1,017	1,017
MSFG - Equipment	-	15,000	15,000
MSFG – Activities	-	-	-
COF Enabling Fund – Lodge	-	(1,950)	(1,950)
CYC – Lodge	-	1,000	1,000
First Transpennine	3,277	(3,277)	-
	12,248	26,882	39,130