

# THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1185399

## Details

---

Other names	FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-09-19
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	168 Grange Road Ramsgate CT11 9PP
Phone	01843580990
Email	<a href="mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com">friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://friendsofellingtonpark.org.uk">friendsofellingtonpark.org.uk</a>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF RAMSGATE, KENT AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT"), TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION, SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELLINGTON PARK.

**Activities:** The Friends of Ellington Park undertake activities to inform, educate, encourage a healthy lifestyle and wellbeing, and encourage community spirit for residents of, and visitors to, Ramsgate. These activities are held within a public park, and are open to everyone regardless of age, gender, ability or ethnicity.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Area of benefit: LOCAL
- Kent

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£9,403	£16,606	-	-
2023-12-31	£33,556	£26,313	-	-
2022-12-31	£49,103	£28,309	-	-
2022-02-28	£16,577	£2,066	-	-
2021-02-28	£0	£0	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carol Anne Lawson		2025-02-24
Charo Duff		2022-12-06
James Douglas Bonthron		2025-05-29
Janet Pace		2025-08-07
Rebecca Anne Bullivant		2023-03-23
Stephen David Yates		2025-02-11

**THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185399

---

# Accounts

---



## **Friends of Ellington Park CIO – 1185399**

**(Referred to variously as “the Charity”, “the Friends”, “FoEP” “CIO” hereafter)**

Report January – December 2024

Previous reports have advised that Ellington Park was undergoing major refurbishment and building works after being awarded a National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), in partnership with our local Council (the landowners). This was due to be completed by December 2023 but a few parts were still in progress and the final sign off by the NHLF was in March this year. At this point the contract with the Lottery-funded Activity Officer (A/O) was due to end but there are some funds remaining and she has advised that she is keen to continue working with the Friends on a voluntary basis.

The NHLF project has certainly had a very positive impact on the park and its users and it is at once noticeable that there has been an increase in daily visitors to the park to enjoy nature, exercise, dog walk etc. but also now to use the café and the new children’s play area.

In conjunction with FoEP and the A/O there are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café and park regularly and this has continued to build over the last year.

The A/O has liaised with many specialists/creative artists/performers that have offered their services at reduced rates or even for free! These contacts continue to grow and we have enabled regular presentations such as local history talks, archeology, tree and nature walks, local author readings and book signings, choirs, painting and crafting sessions etc. to take place in the park.

We are proud to announce that Ellington Park retained the prestigious Green Flag award and also Green Heritage Site accreditation for a third year – making it the only park in our district to have received these accolades. We are most grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers who help to maintain the park to keep it at its best. Two of our trustees were accompanied by two local councillors to the awards ceremony in London, which helped to highlight what a prestigious award this is and to encourage other green spaces in our area to go in for it. See additional info below.

In 2024 we held the following events: Easter Fun Day, Family Picnic in the Park for families to come and enjoy the park and listen to music on the bandstand, Young Minds Wellness day which was attended by many charities and organisations providing help and advice for young people and their families, in September, as part of the annual English Heritage Open Days, we had a display detailing the history of the park. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange our largest annual event, the May Fayre, which brings in a lot of income via stall fees and donations so this has had an impact on our receipts this year. We hope that we will be able to return to arranging this popular event again next year.

Our A/O traced a local historian who researched the history of the park and produced scripts and also made outfits for a new costumed walk. This is all performed by volunteers – the Ellington Park Players - and they were able to do three walks during the summer when the weather permitted. They hope to expand next year and possibly do some indoor slide show presentations.

Also, after many years of support, our membership secretary retired and so we no longer have a regular income from this, although many long-term supporters still pay.

Therefore, this year our main income was from our second-hand book shop which is run solely by volunteers with all the books being donated so all of the profit goes directly to the Charity. This is an important community asset and we continue to have discussions with the local Council (who is the landowner), on how we can expand the space so that the stock doesn't need to be carried in and out each time and we can be open all-year and not be weather dependent.

The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period was £28,637. From this we need to ring fence a certain amount for necessary expenses including the annual contract for the defibrillator, website support, insurance and other professional fees along with the costs involved to support events and activities in the park such as portaloos, first aiders, the entertainment etc. which for this year were £7367.

We also need to build the Charity's resilience to enable it to further its objectives now that the NHLF project is complete.

We have helped enable other charities and community organisations, to host events in the park including: those that attend the mental health awareness day; the Power of Women Festival who held a family fun day for International Women's Day, the Pan European Choir which brought singers from several countries together to perform on the bandstand and Festival of Sound who put on a family fun day and evening cabaret. Local schools regularly come for nature walks and some have also set up litter picking sessions. We have helped many young people achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards through volunteering activities within the park.

We were able to fund additional equipment for the children's play area (at approx £3500), and have plans to refurbish the old play area so that it will encourage more use. At the end of the year we were pleased to have been awarded a grant of £2000 from the local Community Lotto fund and this is to go towards developing a seated garden area next to the café with views looking across the park.

We are always trying to attract new trustees which can be difficult, as it appears to be for many charities. Many of the original group that came together and helped with the NHLF bid and have been supportive from the beginning have now stepped down. We are keen to attract possible new trustees with various expertise ranging from administrative skills for all the behind the scenes paperwork, event organisation, nature and gardening knowledge and working with volunteers etc. We are extremely grateful that one of our long-standing volunteers with a wealth of experience has provided the Charity with solid advice and guidance.

The board is working on plans for the future to further enhance the enjoyment of and involvement with the park for the whole community and we very much appreciate all of the hard work and support we receive from volunteers and our local town and district councils. We look forward to building on this for 2025.

**Treasurer**

**Friends of Ellington Park CIO**

## Taken from the Council press release for Green Flag award July 2024

### **Ellington Park wins a prestigious Green Flag Award® for the third year**

Ellington Park has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award® for the third year running. The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces. It sets the standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Ellington Park has also achieved the Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management and promotion of its historic features.

In 2021 Ellington Park was restored by a partnership between The Friends of Ellington Park and the local District Council. The National Lottery Heritage Fund supported the restoration with £1.8million from its 'Parks for People' programme.

The project was a sympathetic regeneration of the park, ensuring its important heritage remained at its heart. The park features a multipurpose café and toilet building, along with a children's playground. The park's historic pathways, flint terrace and balustrade were restored, as was the 120-year-old bandstand.

**Local Councillor and Council Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Coastal Services** said, "For the third year running, Ellington Park has received a Green Flag Award, which is fantastic news. The ongoing recognition of the park's high standards is down to the hard work and dedication of council officers, the Friends of Ellington Park, and the brilliant community volunteers who keep it looking at its best. Ellington Park is a fabulous asset to the local area, and it's great that each year we see it going from strength to strength."

**The Friends of Ellington Park** said, "We are delighted that Ellington Park has received a Green Flag Award, for the third year. It is an amazing achievement and recognises the commitment that goes into making the park a beautiful open space for everyone to enjoy."

Commenting on the announcement of this year's winners, **Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager** said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved at Ellington Park on achieving a Green Flag Award.

"Ellington Park is a vital green space for communities to socialise, enjoy nature, for children to play safely and it provides important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental health.

"We know that staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that it maintains the high standards of the Green Flag Award, everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their Achievement.

"It is important that our free to use spaces are maintained to the Green Flag Award standard, making them accessible for all members of the community while ensuring the environment is protected."

## Ellington Park

Ellington Park really is the perfect place to be during the fine summer months.



Just relax and enjoy the beautiful space, play in the children's areas, walk through the wildlife area, browse at the bookshop (which is open now until October – Saturday and Wednesday 12noon – 4pm, weather permitting), or take refreshments at the café (open Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm).



We were so pleased that one of the Ramsgate Ravens stopped off on the trail to visit us. As part of The Ramsgate Cultural Programme eight raven sculptures were decorated with designs by local youth organisations and located about the town.

Have you seen them all yet? Ours is called 'Wildflower' and was designed by Liberty Training whose students regularly help in the park and the café.



Working with the Open Spaces Team at Thanet District Council, we have been able to provide funds for some new equipment in the children's area - two 'springers', made from sustainable Robinia wood, which have now been installed and being enjoyed by younger children.

There are other areas in the park including the old children's area, the garden space next to the café and the ongoing development of the wildlife area that we are also in discussion about.

### LOOK OUT FOR BUMB-ELLI BEE!

A group of our volunteers have formed The Elli Park Players and co-ordinated by a local historian who has researched, written and even made the costumes, have devised a costumed walk about the history of the park introducing many characters associated with it during the ages.



Please look out for details of the dates and booking information for the walks and presentations.

We hope that many of you have attended and enjoyed the various events put on in the park so far this year by the Friends, the Café team and other local organisations including Power of Women Family Day, Easter Trail, May Fayre, Pan European Choir with singers coming from several countries to perform on the bandstand, Picnic in the Park, Young Minds Wellness Information and support day and the ever popular Festival of Sound.



The next event is part of English Heritage's Open Days, and we will be in the park on Sunday September 8, 11am - 3pm, sharing information about the history and heritage of the park with a chance to meet our costumed characters.

### ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO ENTER AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

This year the miniature steam railway had to close for some essential repairs and we hope

that these have now been completed and the trains are running again. For more information, please contact Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club at [www.radmec.co.uk](http://www.radmec.co.uk)

As always, none of this is possible without the hard work of an amazing group of volunteers who work in the park, bookshop, café, at events and behind the scenes and we have some young people's groups who have kindly done litter picking and planting from Priory Infants School Eco-Team, Liberty Training and Pie Factory plus many doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards. A HUGE thank-you to everyone for helping to make Ellington Park the beautiful, welcoming place it is!

For further information or to get involved please contact us on [friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com) or see our Facebook pages and website: [www.ellingtonpark.org.uk](http://www.ellingtonpark.org.uk)

For the café see their Facebook page or website: [www.ellingtoncafe.co.uk](http://www.ellingtoncafe.co.uk)

Written by: The Friends of Ellington Park CIO



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**The Friends of Ellington Park CIO**

No (if any)

CC16a

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
---------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
TDC Funding - for Salary	-	-	-	-	17,700
RTC Grant - for Petanque Court	-	-	-	-	
Bookshop Sales	5,805	-	-	5,805	7,426
Profit from Café	-	-	-	-	
Loan repaid from Cafe	-	-	-	-	
Community Events	1,097	-	-	1,097	6,602
TDC Community Lotto Fund - for Friends Garden	-	2,000	-	2,000	
Subscriptions & Donations	355	-	-	355	1,788
Other Income	146	-	-	146	40
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>7,403</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,403</b>	<b>33,556</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>7,403</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,403</b>	<b>33,556</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salat to Activity Officer	-	6,520	-	6,520	12,542
Admin Costs	1,221	-	-	1,221	1,629
Accountancy	540	-	-	540	540
Wildlife Garden Expenses	-	93	-	93	1,093
Community Events	3,238	-	-	3,238	6,720
Workshop	-	-	-	-	
Insurance	1,436	-	-	1,436	1,394
Defibrillator Rental	456	-	-	456	438
Property Maintenance	336	-	-	336	1,547
Annual Inspection	134	-	-	134	
Kent Bat Group Membership	6	-	-	6	
Training Expenses	-	-	-	-	410
Refund to RTC - Grant not used	-	2,626	-	2626	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>9,239</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,606</b>	<b>26,313</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	3,336	-	-	3336	
Two Printers	-	-	-	-	129
<b>Cabinet for Defibrillator</b>	-	-	-	-	752
Improvements to Notice Board	-	-	-	-	250
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>1131</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>10,703</b>	<b>9,239</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,942</b>	<b>28,309</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,300</b>	<b>- 7,239</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 10,539</b>	<b>7,243</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,641</b>	<b>36,398</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>28,637</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,102</b>	<b>43,641</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>	28,497	4,465	-
	<b>Cash Held</b>	140	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	28,637	4,465	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

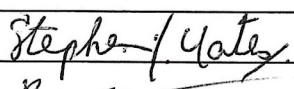

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Accountancy Fee</b>	unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	STEPHEN YATES	18/9/25
	REBECCA BULLIVANT	18/9/25

**THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185399

---

# Accounts

---



## **Friends of Ellington Park CIO – 1185399**

**(Referred to variously as “the Charity”, “the Friends”, “FoEP” “CIO” hereafter)**

Report January – December 2023

Previous reports have advised that Ellington Park was undergoing major refurbishment and building works after being awarded a National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), in partnership with our local Council (the landowners). This was due to be completed by December 2023 but a few parts are still in progress before the final sign off by the NHLF. At this point the contract with the Lottery-funded Activity Officer (A/O) will also end, although there are some funds remaining and she has advised that she is keen to continue working with the Friends on a voluntary basis.

Part of the project was the building of a community café – the site of which the Charity leases from the Council - with toilet facilities and a new children’s play area. The café, which continues to be operated by the Friends of Ellington Park Café Ltd (a separate legal entity to the Charity), is run by paid managers and a group of reliable volunteers. It is open 6 days a week and offers a comfortable space with good value food and drink for the local community. In the summer holidays, working with a local school, it was able to provide vouchers for free packed lunches for less fortunate children and in the winter months it opens on a Monday (when it is usually closed), as a “Warm Space” to provide free hot drinks and toast. It has also introduced weekly Yoga sessions. In addition, in response to feedback from the Charity’s beneficiaries, the Council was able to install an all-inclusive swing seat in the children’s area making it more accessible to a wider range of children.

In conjunction with FoEP and the A/O there are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café and park regularly and this has continued to build over the last year.

The A/O has liaised with many specialists/creative artists/performers that have offered their services at reduced rates or even for free! These contacts continue to grow and we have enabled regular presentations such as local history talks, archeology, tree and nature walks, local author readings and book signings, painting and crafting sessions etc. to take place in the park.

We are proud to announce that Ellington Park retained the prestigious Green Flag award and also Green Heritage Site accreditation for a second year – making it the only park in our district to have received these accolades. We are most grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers who help to maintain the park to keep it at its best. We were also nominated and selected as winners for Design Awards organised by a local civic and historical society. Please see details below.

In 2023 we held the following events: Easter Fun Day; May Fayre - our largest fundraising and engagement event - with up to 8000 visitors during the day, with music on the bandstand, a funfair, over 100 stalls and food vendors; Family Picnic in the Park for families to come and enjoy the park and listen to the music on the bandstand; in September, as part of the annual English Heritage Open Days, we also celebrated the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ellington Park becoming a public park, where we presented the history of the park which goes back to 11<sup>th</sup> century and introduced our new Ellington

Park Players who have devised a costumed walk including many characters that have been involved with the park throughout its history.

These events, along with kind donations from park users, membership payments and the money made from our second-hand bookshop provides the income for the charity. The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period was £31,937. From this we need to ring fence a certain amount for necessary expenses including the annual contract for the defibrillator, website support, insurance and other professional fees along with the costs involved to support events and activities in the park such as portaloos, first aiders, the entertainment etc. which for this year were £13771. We also need to build the Charity's resilience to enable it to further its objectives when the NHLF project is completed.

We have helped enable an increased number of events, activities and entertainment, led by other charities and community organisations, to happen in the park including: mental health awareness days to encourage people to come and enjoy our beautiful park and to showcase the many organisations that can offer support and advice; the Power of Women Festival who held a family fun day for International Women's Day and Festival of Sound who put on a family fun day and evening cabaret. Local schools regularly come for nature walks and some have also set up litter picking sessions. We have helped many young people achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards through volunteering activities within the park.

From April – October, weather permitting, we are able to open our second-hand book shop which is staffed by volunteers and has a vast selection of reference and fiction books for all ages. It is well supported and bringing in good revenue for the CIO, and importantly has become a community hub in itself (with 14 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds), promoting social inclusion and an increased sense of community ownership of the park. We hope in future to be able to adapt the space so that the volunteers do not have to carry the stock in and out each time and we would then be able to be open all year round.

This year we welcomed a new trustee whose appointment has enabled the Charity to build its capacity by adopting a suite of new policies and procedures, with a focus, among other things, on the safeguarding of the Charity's beneficiaries and volunteers. Sadly, we saw a trustee and long term volunteer step down and we are grateful to her for her hard work and commitment in helping with events and wider contribution within the park. We are in the process of recruiting further trustees who will add their skills to the effective functioning of the Charity.

The NHLF project has certainly had a very positive impact on the park and its users and it is at once noticeable that there has been an increase in daily visitors to the park to enjoy nature, exercise, dog walk etc. but also now to use the café and the new children's play area. The visitor data collection, which was done as part of the NHLF project, has shown year on year increases from prior to the project starting in 2019 to the end 2023 with overall increase to visitor numbers of close to 75%. This has given us a strong foundation to build from and we are now planning activities and projects for 2024 to continue the legacy.

**Treasurer**

**Friends of Ellington Park CIO**

# Ramsgate Sociey Design Awards 2023

The Ramsgate Design Awards received 32 nominations in the various categories. All the nominated projects varied widely in their nature and character, so the independent judging panel, had their work cut out to pick the winners in each category. We are so proud that Ellington Park was selected as winner of 2 categories



## PUBLIC REALM

**WINNER ELLINGTON PARK** Fabulous effort over a long period of time to bring the café, a restored bandstand and some well-designed landscaping to this much appreciated community park.

## BUILDING OF THE YEAR

**WINNER ELLINGTON PARK** The community group established over ten years ago worked hard to get National Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Victorian features of the park, bring a new café, toilets, refurbished bandstand and play area to this community park which was under considerable threat. The judges were delighted to award this year's top prize to this amazing achievement.

Winner of the prestigious Building of the Year award went to the Friends of Ellington Park for their renovation of the popular park in the centre of Ramsgate. The landscaping, bandstand, and new café all combine to make this project an outstanding feat of community effort.

issue, which is distributed to all households in the town.

## Ellington Park Update

**Ellington Park was bright and beautiful during the spring with the tree blossoms and flowers bringing colour and joy!**

Whether it was new trees planted as part of the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) project along the cherry tree avenue, the sponsored fruit trees or the spring bulbs and wildflowers introduced by our hardworking and dedicated volunteers, it all looked magnificent.



With summer here, it is a wonderful green space to come and spend some time: for the more energetic to exercise

or maybe to just relax and enjoy nature and the calmness of the wildlife area, for children to have fun in the play area, to meet up for a drink and a snack on the café terrace looking out to the bandstand and beyond...

We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who work so hard throughout the year helping to keep the park tidy and clean, to organise the events and so much more behind the scenes! In addition to volunteers we also need kind and talented people to join us on the Board of Trustees. We are looking for people with a range of administrative and practical skills, but most importantly people who are willing to work and learn together as part of a team to support the Friends in their efforts to preserve, promote and improve this beautiful park.

DON'T PANIC at the thought of joining the Trustees in whatever capacity, the Trustees have access to a range of governance advice which can help make the running of the charity a whole lot smoother.

**CALL TO ACTION** - If you or anybody you know would be interested in finding out more please email us at: [friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com) and we would be delighted to get back to you with more details.

The Friends of Ellington Park have some events arranged to take us to the end of the year, look out for more details!

Please note that the correct times for the Christmas Fayre is 10am - 3pm.

Please also check out the running days of the little steam trains operated throughout the year by The Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club at [radmec.co.uk](http://radmec.co.uk).



For further information or to get involved with Friends of Ellington Park or at Ellington Park Café. Please visit our Facebook pages and websites: [ellingtonpark.org.uk](http://ellingtonpark.org.uk) and [ellingtoncafe.co.uk](http://ellingtoncafe.co.uk)





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**The Friends of Ellington Park CIO**

No (if any)  
**1185399**

CC16a

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
---------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
TDC Funding - for Salary	-	17,700	-	17,700	8,850
RTC Grant - for Petanque Court	-	-	-	-	2,626
Bookshop Sales	7,426	-	-	7,426	5,847
Profit from Café	-	-	-	-	5,717
Loan repaid from Cafe	-	-	-	-	11,483
Community Fundraising Events	6,602	-	-	6,602	11,501
Tree Sponsorship - for Wildlife Garden	-	-	-	-	1,340
Subscriptions & Donations	1,788	-	-	1,788	1,563
Other Income	40	-	-	40	176
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,556</b>	<b>49,103</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,556</b>	<b>49,103</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salary to Activity Officer	-	12,542	-	12,542	8,550
Admin Costs	1,629	-	-	1,629	1,067
Accountancy	540	-	-	540	-
Wildlife Garden Expenses	1,093	-	-	1,093	6,443
Community Fundraising Expenses	6,720	-	-	6,720	7,804
Workshop	-	-	-	-	500
Insurance	1,394	-	-	1,394	1,337
Defibrillator Rental	438	-	-	438	588
Property Maintenance	1,547	-	-	1,547	509
Expenses for Pentanque Court Project	-	-	-	-	380
Training Expenses	410	-	-	410	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>12,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,313</b>	<b>27,178</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Two Printers	-	-	-	-	129
Cabinet for Defibrillator	-	-	-	-	752
Improvements to Notice Board	-	-	-	-	250
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1131</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>12,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,313</b>	<b>28,309</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,243</b>	<b>20,794</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>29,852</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>15,604</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,641</b>	<b>36,398</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>	31,797	11,704	-
	<b>Cash Held</b>	140	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK



Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Accountancy Fee</b>	unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JULIE LONG	24/08/24
	Vincent Tucker	24/08/24



Charity No 1185399

## **Reserves policy for the Friends of Ellington Park 2023**

The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period stood at £31,937. The Trustees consider the current level of reserves to be more than enough to cover the Charity's expected expenditure for the year ahead were projected sources of income not to materialise.

For this reporting period, the Friends have focused on managing the Heritage-funded regeneration project successfully through to its completion date, which was due to be December 2023 but some parts are still ongoing before the final sign off by the National Lottery.

Once the regeneration project is completed, the Trustees plan to utilise a suitable proportion of the Charity's reserves for other projects which further the Charity's objects.

In the meantime, the Trustees are taking the opportunity to build the Charity's resilience and capacity, strengthening its reserves through fundraising activities such as the community bookshop, community cafe, and other events.

**THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185399

---

# Accounts

---



Charity No 1185399

## **Friends of Ellington Park CIO - 1185399**

Report March 2022 – December 2022

For information: The reporting period was set up as March – February to reflect when we originally started as a Community Group so the accounts and report for last year were submitted for the period March 2021 – Feb 2022. We have now adjusted this year to be from March until December 2022 and going forward it will then be a standard calendar year which will be in sync with the accounting period of the CIO.

Our previous report advised that Ellington Park was undergoing major refurbishment and building works after being awarded a National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), in partnership with our local council (the landowners).

This work has now been completed with the opening of the new community café with toilet facilities (in August 2021). The CIO has taken on the tenancy of the café with the local council as landlord and Ellington Park Café Ltd is the operating company. It is run by paid managers and a group of reliable volunteers. It is open 6 days a week and offers a comfortable space with good value food and drink for the local community.

In conjunction with FoEP and the A/O\* there are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café regularly and this has continued to build over the last year. In the winter months some volunteers opened the café on Mondays (when it is usually closed), to provide a warm space and offer free tea and toast.

In addition, the NHLF funding is paying for an \*Activity Officer (A/O who was appointed in October 2021), to work on our behalf to encourage local groups, schools and the wider community to use the park and café for their wellbeing and educational workshops. The original budget was drastically reduced which has had a knock-on effect as to the amount and level of activities that can be arranged but the A/O has liaised with many specialists/creative artists/performers who have offered their services at reduced rates or even for free. These contacts continue to grow and we have regular presentations such as local history talks, archeology, local author readings and book signings, painting and crafting sessions etc.

The other restoration works have also been completed including the renovation of the historic assets of the park such as the 120 year old bandstand and terrace area, as well as planting of new trees and plants. We are proud to announce that Ellington Park was awarded the prestigious Green Flag award and also Green Heritage Site accreditation – being the only park in our district to have received these accolades. We are most grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers who help to maintain the park to keep it at its best.

In the final quarter of 2021 we were able to start organising events in the park again and this has gone from strength to strength in 2022. These events provide income for the CIO from stall fees and kind donations from the attendees but also involve some high expenditure on items such as porta-loos, entertainment, first aid support and additional insurance cover. However, we want to encourage everyone to use the park and our events are free and attract a large attendance from all walks of the community and we receive fabulous feedback from park users and on social media.

In 2022 we held the following events: Easter Fun Day, World Bee Day (with a presentation from our local beekeepers' association and we now have our own hive!), our largest event the May Fayre, Queen's Jubilee celebrations, Family Picnic in the Park for families to come and enjoy the park and listen to the music on the bandstand, annual English Heritage Open Day where we present the history of the park which goes back to 11<sup>th</sup> century, Halloween Party and Christmas Fayre.

These events, along with kind donations from park users, has allowed us to have a defibrillator installed outside the café so that it is accessible anytime. We have ring-fenced the funds to pay for the 5 year contract for this.

We have helped with other events working with local groups and charities including mental health awareness days to encourage people to come and enjoy our beautiful park and to show there are many organisations that can offer support and advice; Disability Awareness Week where the local Mencap group did a 'yarn bomb' on the bandstand; Power of Women held a family fun day for International Women's Day. Local schools regularly come for nature walks and some have also set up litter picking sessions.

From April – October, weather permitting, we are able to open our book shop which is manned by volunteers and has a vast selection of reference and fiction books for all ages. It is well supported which brings a good revenue for the CIO. We hope in future to be able to adapt the space so that the volunteers do not have to carry the stock in and out each time and we would then be able to be open all year round.

The NHLF project will continue until the end of 2023 so we are working with them to fulfill the outcomes for the project and it is already noticeable that there has been an increase in daily visitors to the park to enjoy nature, exercise, dog walk etc but also now to use the café and the new children's play area.

We are now planning activities and projects for next year!

***Treasurer***

***Friends of Ellington Park CIO***

From an article December 2022 in local town magazine that is distributed to all residents.

## A Busy Year for Ellington Park

The Friends of Ellington Park have enjoyed a bumper year following the lifting of Covid restrictions and the magnificent regeneration programme. We would like to thank the National Lottery Fund, Thanet District Council and all the contractors for their help and support in achieving this.

The Friends are very proud and delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Site accreditation. These accolades are a testament to the hard work of staff and dedicated volunteers.

This year, the Friends, along with the Heritage Lottery funded Activity Officer, have been engaging with schools, local charities and community groups to hold a wide-ranging programme of events: including the welcome return of our May Fayre,

International Bee Day (we now even have our own swarm of Elli Bees being nurtured by Thanet Beekeepers Association!), Queen's Jubilee celebrations, Heritage Open Day, Family Picnic and free children's activities during the school holidays. We've recently had our now annual Halloween Party and are

looking forward to our Christmas Fayre on Sunday December 11.

The Ellington Park Café celebrated its first anniversary in August and has become a popular hub for meeting family and friends while enjoying the beautiful panoramic view from the terrace. Winter opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 4pm for a wide range of hot and cold food and drinks.

Now in its seventh year, the Ellington Park Bookshop has been attracting a growing number of keen book browsers and buyers to its large range of books for all ages and tastes.

In addition to the new trees and landscaping that were part of the Heritage Lottery project, the Friends have also expanded the wildlife area planting wild flowers, additional hedging and sponsored fruit trees.

It's encouraging to see other groups using the park too, for so many events such as the fantastic Festival of Sound, the landscape painting workshops, TDC's Big Green Week, the Salvation Army family days, as well as mental-health awareness events like Mencap's "yarn bomb" of the handstand

Lived Experience information day for young people and many more.

Finally, we're extremely grateful to all those dedicated people who have helped arrange events and activities throughout the year, done litter-picking, gardening and watering trees during the long, hot summer. Thank you all so much.

To become involved in any way or to join the Friends of Ellington Park, please get in touch via email:  
[friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com)





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
The Friends of Ellington Park CIO

No (if any)  
1185399

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/03/2022		31/12/2022

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
TDC Funding - for Salary	-	8,850	-	8,850	-
RTC Grant - for Petanque Court	-	2,626	-	2,626	-
Bookshop Sales	5,847	-	-	5,847	-
Profit from Café	5,717	-	-	5,717	-
Loan repaid from Cafe	11,483	-	-	11,483	-
Community Fundraising Events	11,501	-	-	11,501	-
Subscriptions & Donations	1,563	-	-	1,493	-
Tree Sponsorship - for Wildlife Garden	-	1,340	-	1,340	-
Other Income	176	-	-	176	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>36,287</b>	<b>12,816</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,103</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>36,287</b>	<b>12,816</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,103</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salary to Activity Officer	-	8,550	-	8,550	-
Admin Costs	1,067	-	-	1,067	-
Wildlife Garden Expenses	5,103	1,340	-	6,443	-
Community Fundrasing Expenses	7,804	-	-	7,804	-
Workshop	500	-	-	500	-
Insurance	1,337	-	-	1,337	-
Defibrillator Rental	588	-	-	588	-
Property Maintenance	509	-	-	509	-
Expenses for Petanque Court Project	-	380	-	380	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,908</b>	<b>10,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,178</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
2 Printers	129	-	-	129	-
Cabinet for Defibrillator	752	-	-	752	-
Improvements to Notice Boards	250	-	-	1,131	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>18,039</b>	<b>10,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,309</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>18,248</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,794</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,604</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>11,604</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,604</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>29,852</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>-</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Balance	29,712	6,546	-
	Cash Held	140	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>29,852</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

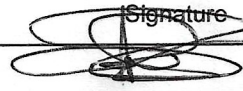

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Defibrillator Cabinet	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Notice Boards	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Storage Containers	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Exercise Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Dovecote	Unrestricted			
	Statues & Carvings	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Shed and Gardening Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-	
	Deck Chairs & Tables	Unrestricted	-	-	
	PA Equipment	Gazebos	Unrestricted		
	Portaloo	Unrestricted	-	-	

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Accountancy Fee	Unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Charo Duff	19/10/2023
	Julie Wing	19/10/23



**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

## TREASURER'S REPORT Dec 2022

Much of our income in the reporting period was generated by our ever-popular community fundraising events, which we were able to reintroduce in late-2021 after COVID restrictions had been lifted. These were exceptionally well attended and brought in £1926 of unrestricted funds. The Charity saw further sources of income generated by our community bookshop (£5847). Also, after COVID, we started to request membership fees again (although a good many members had still paid their fees or made donations during that time).

Key items of spend included: Activity Officer's remuneration (£8850), funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund via the District Council; costs associated with community and fundraising events (£7804); the ongoing 5 year rental for the defibrillator (£2886) and other charitable activities, for example Wildlife Garden maintenance (£6443).

Also earmarked for our funds are some long standing projects, some of which were excluded from the NLHF funding due to increased costs on the build, such as:

- **Petanque piste** (now in progress as funding received from Town Council)
- to upgrade **Shed** area with proper roof and door etc so that it is weatherproof and more accessible for use.
- to extend the **Bookshop** (maybe with an additional container), so that the volunteers do not have to lug the stock in and out each time and then it can be open year round. The bookshop is a good source of income for us as all stock is donated and all the work is done by volunteers so has no outgoing cost. The volunteers have advised that this year there has been a definite increase in customers and revenue.

## **Reserves policy for the Friends of Ellington Park 2022**

The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period stood at £29,852. The Trustees consider the current level of reserves to be more than enough to cover the Charity's expected expenditure for the year ahead were projected sources of income not to materialise.

In the present reporting period, FoEP has focused on managing the Heritage-funded regeneration project successfully and will continue to do so through to its completion in December 2023. Once the regeneration project is completed, the Trustees plan to utilise a suitable proportion of the Charity's reserves for other projects which further the Charity's objects.

In the meantime, the Trustees are taking the opportunity to build the Charity's resilience and capacity, strengthening its reserves through fundraising activities such as the community bookshop, community cafe, May Fayre and other events.

In summary, the Friends have achieved some remarkable things this year and hope that we can build on these for 2023.

***Treasurer***

***Friends of Ellington Park CIO***

**THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185399

---

# Accounts

---



Charity No 1185399

## **Friends of Ellington Park CIO - 1185399**

Report March 2021 – February 2022

Our previous report advised that Ellington Park was undergoing major refurbishment and building works after being awarded a National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), in partnership with our local council (the landowners).

This work is still continuing with the build of the new café and facilities and renovation work to the historic assets of the park such as the Bandstand and terrace area, as well as planting of new trees and plants.

During this time we have been unable to hold events or fund raising activities in the park as we were unsure of how long these works, and also the covid restrictions, would be ongoing for. During this time we also decided not to ask for membership subscriptions as we were unsure of when we would be able to start doing things again plus we were aware that some people were having financial issues during the lockdowns. This is why previous entry advised £0 for income and outgoings although we had the accumulated funds of approx £18k from the 8 years as the original Community Group (before we became a charity).

The original NHLF plans were modified re covid, supply issues and ever increasing costs. This affected some of our plans for additional amenities such as updating our shed area to make it more accessible for gardening groups and storage, additional planting to the wildlife area, expansion of our second-hand book shop so that volunteers do not have to carry the stock in and out each time it is open and also the long-term aim to raise funding for children's specialist play area equipment.

In addition, the budget paid by the NHLF for an Activity Officer (A/O who was appointed in October 2021), to work on our behalf to encourage local groups, schools and the wider community to use the park and café for their wellbeing and educational workshops was drastically reduced which has had a knock-on effect as to the amount and level of activities that can be arranged due to what funds are available but we have been very lucky that many specialists/creative artists/performers have offered their services at reduced rates or even for free.

The pandemic greatly delayed the completion and opening of the new café and facilities until the beginning of August 2021 but since its opening it has been well supported. It has some paid staff and a core of reliable volunteers. It is open 6 days a week selling hot

and cold food and drinks. In conjunction with FoEP and the A/O there are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café regularly and we are hopeful this will continue to develop as we work towards achieving our aims and objectives.

Originally there were delays by the bank with opening a new account for the charity which was finally resolved in September 2021. In the interim the funds that were held by FoEP when we were a Community Group were paid into the café account as we needed to start paying overheads and also to purchase additional equipment for the café to enable operating. The café has started to repay these funds to the CIO (£8k in Nov 2021). Once the cafe has been trading for a year (in August 2022), we can discuss the transfer of profits over to the CIO in line with the National Heritage Lottery project aims. The CIO and café are separate legal entities but currently have an overlap with CIO trustees also being directors of the cafe so as to work together towards these objectives.

Once the FoEP was able to start organising events again to help with fund raising we had our first Halloween Party in October 2021 and Christmas Fayre in December 2021 which were both well attended and we hope to make them annual events.

In February 2022 we started work on the wildlife area with a dedicated group of volunteers and a paid professional horticulturalist to do maintenance work and expand the area to include additional trees (including sponsored fruit trees), and a wild flower meadow. We were also aware of the work to be done to help support our application for a Green Flag award.

Going forward in 2022 we have the following events planned: Easter Fun Day, World Bee Day (with a presentation from our local beekeepers' association), the return after two years of our largest event the May Fayre, Queen's Jubilee celebrations and other events working with local groups including mental health awareness days to encourage people to come and enjoy our beautiful park and to show there are many organisations that can offer support and advice. Once the weather improves we will be able to open our book shop again (usually from April - October, weather permitting).

In addition to the future events planned we have now also begun collecting membership fees again and producing our regular newsletters. Excepting any further covid restrictions, we feel confident that we will have a busy and productive rest of the year.

Julie Wing

Treasurer Friends of Ellington Park



## **FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK**

INCOME SUMMARY March 2021 - February 2022

For Charity Commission Report

<b>2021</b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
March	£62.00	£0.00	
April	£67.50	£282.84	
May	£40.00	£438.00	
June	£137.50	£5,040.00	
July	£32.00	£0.00	
August	£637.32	£0.00	
September	£438.07	£0.00	Move to CIO a/c
October	£3,286.17	£624.87	
November	£14,459.82	£1,216.69	
December	£1,713.00	£84.66	
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>£20,873.38</b>	<b>£7,687.06</b>	<b>£13,186.32</b>
<b>2022</b>			
January	£1,070.50	£1,543.29	
February	£583.06	£2,472.37	
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>£1,653.56</b>	<b>£4,015.66</b>	<b>-£2,362.10</b>
<b>Total 2021 + 2022</b>	<b>£22,526.94</b>	<b>£4,015.66</b>	<b>£18,511.28</b>

<u>Less ring fenced:</u>			
Nov 21-Feb 22	£5,950.00	£1,950.00	1st payment. National Lottery funding for Activity Officer
<b>Total less ring fenced</b>	<b>£16,576.94</b>	<b>£2,065.66</b>	<b>£14,511.28</b>

**THE FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185399

---

# Accounts

---



## Chair's Report 2021

The Heritage Lottery Fund works continued on the regeneration of the park, although progress was hampered by covid-19 effecting both the contractor's staff, TDC staff and our trustee board.

Unfortunately, due to the amount of plant and machinery moving around within the park between 20/9/20 and 19/9/21, the Friends were unable to offer any events, workshops, or public engagement on site. The social gathering on Thursdays continued, but at a separate venue.

Our treasurer also had issues opening a bank account for the CIO, which was eventually achieved on 19/09/21. Up to that time, we continued using the Friends of Ellington Park community account for financial activity.

It was agreed by the board that the café [built under the auspices of the HLF project] would be registered as a not-for-profit limited company, with all profits being given to the CIO at the end of the first financial year. The café was handed over to the Friends of Ellington Park in mid-July 21 and started operating on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

Funds held in the community account were transferred to the Café account as items had to be purchased to enable the operating of the café and at that time, the expenditure was unknown. After the setup was almost complete, the café transferred an initial £8,000 to the CIO to ensure it was able to operate financially.

Events and workshops started quickly, despite there still being some building works being finished off. The Festival of Sound held three events in the park, and we held a Ukulele demonstration and workshop. This was followed by a Halloween children's event and a Christmas Fayre. Both the latter events both attracted large numbers of attendees and raised funds for the CIO.

Two staff (job sharing managers) are employed in the café, with all other roles are covered by a bank of volunteers who work one or two half-day shifts, six days per week. The café was very busy from the first, and is very popular with local residents. Three groups use the café weekly and local community groups use the café space in the evenings for meetings [at no cost to them].

The Friends are recruiting an employed Activity Officer (paid for by the HLF project) who will be organising workshops and activities until December 2023.

At this date, it is impossible to predict how covid-19 will affect both the CIO and café business, but we are hopeful things will return to normal and that our endeavours will not be disrupted in any major way. Thus, we remain hopeful that we will meet all our Aims and Objectives for many years to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Perkins', is written on a light blue rectangular background.

Beverley Perkins  
Chair of the Friends of Ellington Park