



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 portaloos, 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 11th 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.

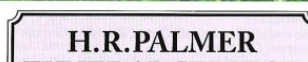
It's encouraging to see other groups using the park too, for so many events such as the fantastic Festival of Sound, the landscape painting workshops, TDC's Big Green Week, the Salvation Army family days, as well as mental-health awareness events like

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





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
01/03/2022

To

Period end date
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 £
A1 Receipts					
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 Café	11,483	-	-	11,483	-
Community Fundraising Events	11,501	-	-	11,501	-
Subscriptions & Donations	1,563	-	-	1,493	-
Tree Sponsorship - for Wildlife Garden	176	1,340	-	1,340	-
Other Income	176	-	-	176	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	36,287	12,816	-	49,103	-

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	36,287	12,816	-	49,103	-

A3 Payments

	-	8,550	-	8,550	-
Salary to Activity Officer	1,067	-	-	1,067	-
Admin Costs	5,103	1,340	-	6,443	-
Wildlife Garden Expenses	7,804	-	-	7,804	-
Community Fundraising Expenses	500	-	-	500	-
Workshop	1,337	-	-	1,337	-
Insurance	588	-	-	588	-
Defibrillator Rental	509	-	-	509	-
Property Maintenance	-	380	-	380	-
Expenses for Petanque Court Project	-	-	-	27,178	-
Sub total	16,908	10,270	-	27,178	-

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	129	-	-	129	-
2 Printers	752	-	-	752	-
Cabinet for Defibrillator	250	-	-	1,131	-
Improvements to Notice Boards	1,131	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,131	-	-	28,309	-
Total payments	18,039	10,270	-	28,309	-

Net of receipts/(payments)

	18,248	2,546	-	20,794	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,604	4,000	-	15,604	-
Cash funds this year end	29,852	6,546	-	36,398	-

02/10/2023

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Balance	29,712	6,546	-
	Cash Held	140	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	29,852	6,546	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

[illegible]



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

Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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)
B5 Liabilities	Accountancy Fee	Unrestricted	540	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Charo Duff	19/10/2023
	Julie Wing	19/10/23 02/10/2023



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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