



Charity Number 1188060

## **FRIENDS OF BROOMHILL**

[friendsofbroomhill.org.uk](http://friendsofbroomhill.org.uk)

Registered Office:

69 Brompton Farm Road  
Rochester, Kent, ME2 3QX

### **Annual Report & Accounts 2024 for the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 prepared by Susan Fletcher, Treasurer**

**17th May 2024**

#### **Introduction**

The Friends of Broomhill ("FoB") are dedicated to the improvement and enrichment of Broomhill Park situated in Strood, Kent, ME2 3NB. The FoB own the Old Orchard, a nine-acre woodland site, adjacent to the Park which was purchased for £45,000 in May 2018. This area was purchased with donations from the general public, companies and match funding from Medway Council. This purchase has enabled us to preserve the woodland from development for all time. Our volunteers assist with maintaining both the Park and the Old Orchard by litter picking, general scrub clearing, bulb planting and maintaining the pathways.

#### **Trustees**

David Park (Secretary)	Louise Hubbard (Trustee)
May Draper (Chair)	John Lawrenson (Trustee)
Susan Fletcher (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)	Andrew Millsom (Trustee)
Barbara Harrison (Trustee)	Colin Pearson (Grants Officer)
Danielle Haughey (Communications Officer)	

#### **Bank**

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4TA.

Our account with National Westminster Bank Plc was closed following a transfer of the balance to CAF Bank on 10 November 2023.

#### **Structure**

The FoB were inaugurated in May 2007, registered as a charity in 2013, and became a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with charity number 1188060 in February 2020. We are governed by our Constitution dated February 2020 which does not allow us to sell the Old Orchard. If the FoB were to dissolve at any time, this land would be gifted to another Trust to be protected for all time. We have therefore listed the Old Orchard in our Accounts with a historic value of £45,000. Following the appointment of two new Trustees from our membership, our Board has increased from seven to nine Trustees. The Board meets six times per year to review and plan future activities, oversee finances and deal with any ongoing matters. Our membership currently stands at 127 members.

## **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The Trustees understand the charity's purposes as set out in our Constitution, they plan what the charity will do, are able to explain how the activities support its purposes, and understand how the charity benefits the general public. To underpin these activities, the FoB have public liability insurance.

We have 18 volunteers who regularly attend on task days. There are many benefits of volunteering – improves physical and mental health, more social contact by meeting new people, connection to the local community and a great sense of achievement.

We also work with the Further Education students and staff from Abbey Court Community Special Foundation School. This is a special school for pupils between the ages of 3-19 with severe and profound learning difficulties. We meet for an hour a week during term time and carry out tasks such as litter picking and footpath clearing.

The FoB held four free events for children during school holidays. We are very grateful to Medway Council and the King Arthurs Drive Residents Association for their generous funding. Funding received covered the full cost of these events which were well attended and drew a lot of people to Broomhill.

## **Awards Achieved**

We were delighted to receive a Silver in the Kent Wildlife Trust Wilder Kent Awards, which is a reflection of the hard work our volunteers contribute towards improving the habitat and environment for both our community and wildlife. We are very proud that Broomhill Park once again received the Green Flag Award for the twelfth consecutive year, and we were also presented with a RHS South East in Bloom Award in the Community Gardening Category.

## **Income**

Our total income has increased from £1,108.63 in 2022/23 to £16,252.44 in 2023/24.

We were delighted to be awarded three grants totalling £14,710.00 for three separate projects:

1. The Kent Community Foundation awarded us £8,750.00 from The Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund for improvements to the entrances to the Old Orchard from the Park. We were extremely pleased to receive this funding which enabled us to provide safer access with the use of better surfaces, handrails and steps on steep slopes. Our volunteers have been continuing the work at some of the other entrances into the Old Orchard;
2. Our successful application to Orchard Community Energy resulted in the FoB receiving funding of £4,960.00 to create community pocket orchards in The Old Orchard. We are very grateful for this money which has been ring-fenced for this exciting project. Work will commence later in 2024 and hopefully be completed by the end of 2025; and
3. Medway Councillor Zoe van Dyke kindly donated £1,000 from her ward grant which will be used for tree planting in the Park. This money has been ring-fenced for this project with the planting to be undertaken after completion of the work at the top of Broomhill Park.

Our membership numbers have remained fairly consistent with renewals ongoing throughout the year. We are very grateful to members who have made a donation with their subscriptions which totalled £238.34 in 2023/24. Three separate claims were made to HMRC for Gift Aid in respect of subscriptions and donations received between the period of 9 March 2022 to 31 December 2023. The FoB received three payments of £49.65, £141.21 and £75.41 respectively which amounted to a total of £266.27 received for Gift Aid during 2023/24.



We have also received additional income through our signing up to Easyfundraising, a free fundraising platform where retailers send us a free donation based on the amount the shopper spends and with no extra cost to the shopper. We are very grateful to our members who are using Easyfundraising for their online shopping. We have so far received two quarterly payments totalling £176.81.

### **Expenditure**

Our expenditure has increased from £5,635.52 in 2022/23 to £10,493.96 in 2023/24. £9,322.36 of this expenditure was in relation to improvements to the entrances into the Old Orchard from the Park for which we received a grant of £8,750.00. The decrease in our expenditure on planting in the Old Orchard from £519.57 in 2022/23 to £39.90 in 2023/24 was partly due to our successful application to I Dig Trees who kindly gave us a donation of 150 native trees.

### **Our aims and plans for 2024/25**

We are looking forward to commencing the work to create community pocket orchards within the Old Orchard area at Broomhill. This is an amazing opportunity for us to plant fruit trees which will provide food for the community as well as boosting the habitat for wildlife. We have sourced 26 apple, pear and plum varieties with Kentish connections. These pocket orchards, together with our recent planting of 150 native species of trees, will add to the diversity of the Old Orchard to improve the area for birds, butterflies and insects.

In July 2023, Hillstone Homes began the development of the area around the communications mast at the top of Gorse Road. The area had been owned by Southern Water and contained two underground reservoirs. The infilled reservoirs will be landscaped to create an open area with a path network, benches and a new viewpoint which will look over the Thames and Medway. Completion is anticipated to be early 2025, after which the FoB will be offered the chance to own and maintain the area.

Four detached houses are being constructed by Hillstone Homes on the South West corner of the site between Gorse Road and the allotments. Whilst this is outside of Broomhill Park, we have followed the planning process for many years to ensure the best outcome for Park users.

### **Conclusion**

Following our successful applications for grants, we are very pleased to say that our total cash at bank has increased from £19,439.67 in 2022/23 to £25,198.15 in 2023/24. The completion of the projects will greatly improve the area for the enjoyment of all and also provide a vital habitat for wildlife.

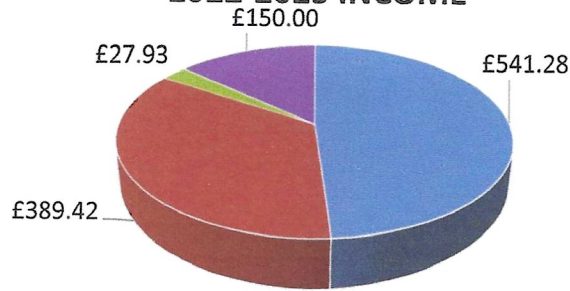
Many thanks to all our members and hard-working volunteers for their continued support.

Susan Fletcher  
Treasurer  
on behalf of the Trustees of  
The Friends of Broomhill

**FRIENDS OF BROOMHILL**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

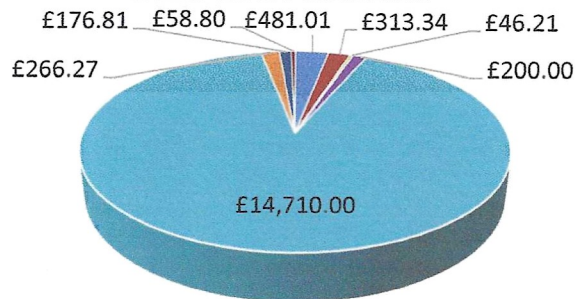
		<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
		£	£
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Grants			14710.00
Easyfundraising			176.81
HMRC Gift Aid			266.27
Orchard expenditure refund			58.80
Subscriptions (net)	541.28		481.01
Donations from members (net)	264.42		238.34
KADAR (King Arthurs Drive Association) donation for event	75.00		75.00
CLIFARA (Cliffe Active Retirement) donation	50.00		
CAF Bank interest	27.93		46.21
Medway Council donation for funding events	150.00		200.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1108.63</b>	<b>16252.44</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Orchard improvements			9322.36
Events			213.03
Website	113.26		127.73
CAF Bank fees	72.00		60.00
AGM costs	63.29		40.00
Stationery	52.89		21.99
Tools & Equipment	174.22		166.19
Sundries	3.50		
Refreshments	83.88		79.89
Planting (orchard)	519.57		39.90
Signage (orchard)	701.60		16.80
Insurance (orchard)	402.22		402.22
Engraved brick seat (orchard)	2951.24		
Build a Bug House event and repairs (orchard)	297.19		
Make Wildflower Seed Eggs Easter event (orchard)	79.69		
Build a Bird Box event (park)	11.17		
First aid supplies	52.30		3.85
Donation to Kent Wildlife Trust (in memory of G. Maytum, a member)	57.50		
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5635.52</b>	<b>10493.96</b>
	<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>-4526.89</b>	<b>5758.48</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	Balance brought forward	23966.56	19439.67
	Excess of Income over Expenditure	-4526.89	5758.48
	<b>Total cash</b>	<b>19439.67</b>	<b>25198.15</b>
<b>Balance at 31/03/2024</b>			
<b>represented by:</b>	CAF Bank	19226.79	25097.17
	NatWest Current Account	145.18	0.00
	Cash held by PayPal and Just Giving	67.70	100.98
	<b>Balance carried forward to next financial year</b>	<b>19439.67</b>	<b>25198.15</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
	Old Orchard (historic value)	45000.00	45000.00
	Tools	250.00	350.00
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>45250.00</b>	<b>45350.00</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### 2022-2023 INCOME



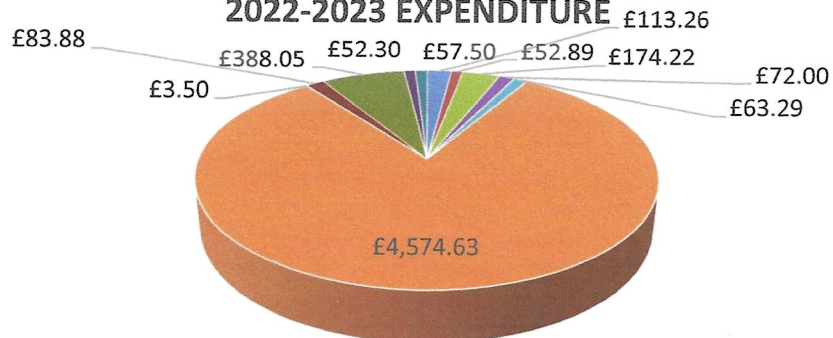
■ Subscriptions ■ Donations ■ CAF Bank interest ■ Medway Council funding

### 2023-2024 INCOME



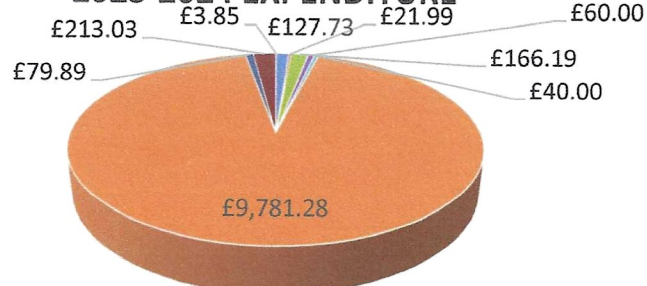
■ Subscriptions ■ Donations ■ CAF Bank interest ■ Medway Council funding  
■ Grants ■ Gift Aid ■ Easyfundraising ■ Orchard cost refund

### 2022-2023 EXPENDITURE



■ Website ■ Stationery ■ Tools ■ CAF fees ■ AGM ■ Old Orchard ■ Sundries ■ Refreshments ■ Events ■ First aid  
■ Donation to KWT

### 2023-2024 EXPENDITURE



■ Website ■ Stationery ■ Tools ■ CAF fees ■ AGM ■ Old Orchard ■ Refreshments ■ Events ■ First Aid