

FRIENDS OF EVINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1205219

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-10-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE: (1) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE EVINGTON SUBURB OF LEICESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. (2) TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF EVINGTON AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS. IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS, BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER: TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: Friends of Evington manages two projects called Enjoyably Evington and Evington Echo. Enjoyably Evington includes all the affiliated groups who share our charitable objects. The Evington Echo (established 1981) is for the charity's bi-monthly magazine, website, calendar, training and events. We

will bring people together for a community centre, in cooperation with the statutory authorities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Leicester City
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£12,343	£11,076	-	-
2024-12-31	£15,113	£15,305	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Baljit Singh MA	Chair	2023-10-28
Dr Rob Watson PhD		2023-10-28
HELEN PETTMAN		2023-10-28
Harkesh Farma		2023-10-28
Jason Chauhan		2023-10-28
Nilesh Chauhan		2023-10-28
Valerie Fisher		2023-10-28

FRIENDS OF EVINGTON

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Friends of Evington

Trustees' Annual Report to the Charity Commission

For the Year Ended 31st December 2025

1 Reference And Administrative Details

Charity Name	Friends of Evington
Charity Registration Number	1205219
Legal Form	(Association) Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Principal Office	10 St Denys Road, Evington, Leicester LE5 6DT
Trustees During The Year	Baljit Singh (Chair); Nilesh Chauhan (Treasurer); Rob Watson (Secretary); Jason Chauhan; Helen Pettman; Harkesh Farma; Val Fisher
Trustee Meetings	The Board of Trustees met six times during the year.
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank, 77 to 79 Market Place, Leicester LE1 5EN

2 Objects And Public Benefit

Friends of Evington exists to support and inspire a healthy community through environmental, educational, civic and community development activity for the benefit of local people. The charity's work is carried out in line with its constitution and its charitable objects.

In planning activities and reviewing achievements during the year, the trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The trustees consider that the charity's activities during the year provided identifiable public benefit through access to local information, support for volunteering, environmental improvement, community participation, heritage activity, health and wellbeing opportunities, and local civic engagement.

3 Activities And Achievements In 2025

3.1 Community Information And Communication

The charity produced six issues of the Evington Echo magazine during the year. The magazine was delivered by volunteers to approximately six thousand homes in the Evington area. The publication promoted community events and services and included content relating to local groups, volunteering, community safety, wellbeing and heritage.

The charity also maintained the Evington Echo website, which extended the reach of the printed publication through additional posts and information relevant to residents, volunteers and community organisations.

3.2 Community Activity, Participation And Wellbeing

The charity organised and supported a range of special events and activities during the year, including talks, social gatherings, clean-up activities, walks, celebration events and remembrance activities. Attendance ranged from approximately twelve to one hundred and fifty people per event. Activities included Remembrance Day, VJ Day, Singing Around

the Christmas Tree, the Evington in Bloom tea and thank-you event, and a Diwali event for supporters and volunteers.

The charity also supported a programme of regular community activity through hired local venues, including Zumba, gentle exercise, yoga, the Evington Social Group, the Scrabble Group, the Rummikub Group, the Lunch Club, and a monthly history and heritage group. Additional supported activity included Santa Visits Evington, Sedgebrook Gardeners, Friends of Piggy's Hollow, and the Horston Hill Project.

3.3 Environmental Improvement And Civic Pride

The charity continued to look after a number of planted containers and small planted garden sites in Evington during the spring and summer seasons. This work was supported by volunteers and contributed to local environmental improvement and civic pride.

Volunteers from East Midlands in Bloom, working with the Royal Horticultural Society, visited and assessed the local Bloom entry on 4th July 2025. The entry received a Silver Gilt award together with a written assessment recognising the quality of planting, commitment to environmental improvement, and community involvement.

The charity also encouraged local litter-picking volunteers to help keep the neighbourhood clean and attractive.

3.4 Partnership Work And Learning

With partners, the charity supported heritage fairs in Leicester and supported training for community reporters. These activities contributed to local learning, heritage engagement and community participation.

4 Financial Review

During the year, the charity received total incoming resources of **£12,343.40** and recorded total expenditure of **£11,076.36**, giving an overall net surplus for the year of **£1,267.04**.

4.1 Statement Of Financial Position At 31st December 2025

Item	£
Cash At Bank – Current Account	6,244.24
Cash At Bank – Deposit Account	23,951.81
Total Assets	30,196.25
Income for the year	12,343.40
Expenditure for the year	11,076.36
Charitable activities	11,334.15
Investment	445.25
Fundraising stall	344
Donations	220
Income Received In Advance	2,244.00
Income Owing	0.00
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward	30,196.05

4.2 Reserves Statement

The trustees have considered the charity's need for reserves in order to manage cashflow, meet foreseeable commitments, and respond to unexpected costs. The charity's principal ongoing commitments include publication costs, insurance, premises hire and planned community activity.

The trustees' policy is to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves sufficient to support essential operating costs and commitments while ensuring that funds are applied for charitable purposes. The trustees will continue to review the level of reserves during 2026 alongside a trustee-approved budget and a more formalised reserves statement.

5 Plans For Next Year: 1st January 2026 To 31st December 2026

The trustees intend to strengthen governance during 2026 by reviewing trustee roles and clarifying areas of responsibility. The trustees propose to structure oversight across seven areas: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Evington Echo lead trustee, business management for the Evington Echo, environmental coordination, and members' project coordination. The purpose of this work is to improve accountability, oversight and continuity rather than to change the charity's objects.

Following changes in sponsorship arrangements, the trustees have agreed to continue the environmental and civic pride work previously delivered under the name Evington in Bloom under a revised programme identity. This represents a change of programme name rather than a change in the charitable activity itself.

The trustees also intend to continue exploring opportunities to secure a centre for the charity in line with the powers set out in the constitution. This includes the possible use of space at Evington Park House and associated land for community activity and a community garden, subject to satisfactory written agreements, funding, capacity and trustee approval.

If these arrangements can be secured on an appropriate basis, the trustees would also like to expand community reporting activity and consider further collaboration with relevant partners in order to widen local participation and communication opportunities.

6 Governance And Risk

The trustees recognise that the charity is entering a period of organisational development and that this brings both opportunities and risks. The principal risks identified by the trustees relate to governance capacity and role clarity, conflicts of interest, financial sustainability, property and occupancy arrangements, health and safety, safeguarding, data protection and reliance on external partners for delivery support.

To manage these risks, the trustees intend to maintain written role descriptions, consistently declare and minute conflicts of interest at all trustees' meetings, improve financial forecasting, review reserves, secure appropriate written agreements for any property use, maintain suitable insurance, implement risk assessments for activities, keep safeguarding and data protection arrangements under review, and ensure that 'partnership' arrangements are supported by clear written expectations and decision-making records.

The trustees will review the charity's risk register at least annually and more frequently where significant developments arise.

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Draft Report for Charity Commission:

Financial Year from 17th October 2023 to 31st December 2024

Aims and Purpose

The Friends of Evington is dedicated to:

* Promoting the conservation, protection and enhancement of our local physical and natural environment.

Promoting provision for facilities in the interest of social welfare.

Our commitment to these goals is evident through community news initiatives like Evington Echo, a magazine and website (www.evingtonecho.uk) that keeps residents informed about local events and activities. Evington in Bloom supports gardening groups that care for our shared environment.

This year we have extended our vision and strategies in the following ways:

1. Partnership with Best Community Charity

We have transitioned from an informal to a formal partnership with Best Community Charity to host an annual festival celebrating our diverse community with food and music. This collaboration also supports our joint Community Asset Transfer (CAT) bid to secure Evington Park House, deemed 'Surplus to requirements' by the Council. Our CAT proposal highlights a variety of community-focused activities and introduced a new team with expertise in building management and financial planning.

2. Collaboration with Decentered Media

We are developing a partnership with Decentered Media to diversify local media offerings, including the launch of a local radio station. This initiative might benefit from a base, ideally in Evington Park House, and securing funding to train more community reporters.

3. Membership in the Heritage Trust Network

By joining the Heritage Trust Network, we are gaining valuable advice and contacts for the management of heritage properties, a resource for our ongoing work with Evington Park House.

4. Collaboration with Local Groups

Through a framework from the Royal Horticultural Society and East Midlands in Bloom, we are networking with local groups to enhance our community's physical surroundings.

Our primary aim this year is to expand our community impact and secure Evington Park House as a central hub for our charitable activities, in partnership with Best Community Charity.

Our CAT application was submitted on 4th August 2023 but we still haven't heard from LCC about the outcome.

Without any response from Leicester City Council, our Trustees agreed that we take some of the planned activities to other venues in Evington.

Our activities aim to inform and empower as many local residents as possible, offering opportunities to engage in initiatives that enrich our community and provide meaningful leisure pursuits.

Central to our work is strong governance and a commitment to recruiting new trustees and volunteers who share our dedication to these goals.

This year, along with continuing our regular activities, we have focused on the following:

We have started new groups in other venues. A Christmas lunch (see EvingtonEcho.uk video). A weekly Lunch Club and a new Zumba/Bhangra exercise group.

and we continue with our regular activities:

(a) Community Magazine

A community magazine printed six times a year and distributed to 6,125 households, through volunteers, ensuring broad access to community news and events.

(b) Website (www.evingtonecho.uk)

Our Word press website shares local news, supports campaigns that align with our objects, celebrates local talent, lists non-profit group activities and amplifies community voices through letters and editorials.

(c) Gardening Competition (Evington in Bloom)

Organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, this competition promotes community spirit, environmental responsibility, and gardening excellence. Our entry this year, judged on 1st July 2024, earned a Silver Gilt Award from East Midlands in Bloom (affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society) scoring 24/33 for community and environmental responsibility and 32/33 for gardening achievement.

Range of Services

Our environmental initiatives encourage affiliated groups to engage in gardening that enhances community spaces. This year, we awarded a £600 grant to Sedgebrook Open Space, an 'It's Your Neighbourhood' (IYN) group, which achieved an 'Outstanding' rating in the Royal Horticultural Society/East Midlands in Bloom evaluation.

Our Evington in Bloom group, centred in Evington Village, enhances the area with planters and pollinator-friendly gardens to support bees and other insects. This year we obtained sponsorship from Ginns and Gutteridge, Funeral Directors, offering meeting space and encouraging other local businesses to contribute practical support. In addition to Evington's IYN groups, dedicated volunteers maintain a medieval moated site owned by Heritage, England, requiring a specialised mowing approach to support biodiversity, preserve history, and foster community knowledge. We support local gardening groups with insurance and risk assessments, and a Leicester City Ward grant through Evington ward has allowed us to further develop IYN and Bloom groups working alongside us.

Evington thrives on a variety of non-profit and charitable organisations that gain exposure through our community magazine and website. In collaboration with our partner, Best Community Charity, we are preparing further activities to launch later in 2025.

- * Football, Tennis and Cricket Academies
- * Athletics Academies (ages 5-9, 10-17, 18-50 and 50+)
- * Drama School (ages 18+)
- * Music Academy and after-school programmes
- * ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes
- * Cooking classes
- * Art and Craft activities

Promotion

To build our media presence, we aim to secure funding to train additional community reporters, strengthening our partnership with Decentered Media and the Documentary Media Centre, we envisage a shared media base that would support various media outlets, including a Community Radio station to amplify our community's voice.

About Friends of Evington

At present Friends of Evington has seven trustees and 24 voting members, including the trustees. Our affiliated groups encompass a wide range of community interests and activities, including:

- * Friends of Downing rive
- * Horston Hill Bee an Butterfly Bed
- * Sedgebrook Open Space and Gardening Group
- * Evington Village Hall ad Village Green
- * The Garden of Prosperity
- * Evington History and Heritage Group
- * Evington Social Group
- * Rummikub Club (Rummikub is a board game)
- * Evington Scrabble Group

- * Evington Bicycle Club (Inactive since the closure of Evington Park House)
- * Evington House Yoga (Currently meeting at Mayflower Church Community rooms)

Friends of Evington transitioned to an incorporated, associate charity on 16th October 2023, from our previous status as an unincorporated, associative charity. The total finances from the unincorporated charity have been transferred to a new account, with an 18-month timeframe to complete this transfer. We have changed our end of financial year with the Charity Commissions to 31st December, which means this year our report covers 14 months, but will be 12 months in future.

Through our governance and partnerships, Friends of Evington continues to grow as a hub of local engagement, offering a variety of services and activities that enrich our community.

Activities programme for 2024, excluding liaison meetings, of which there were many.

5th Feb Subgroup of FOE visit Evington Park House

10th Feb Heritage Fair in Leicester. Stand and publicity. A networking opportunity for Friends of Evington.

28th Feb AGM Seminar for East Midlands in Bloom

8th March Meeting to organise fitting a defibrillator for Evington Village

12th March Discussion meeting with LCC managers concerning our gardening activities in Evington Village

20th March Special meeting organised by FOE as a consultation meeting with the local community about the CAT process for Evington Park House

24th March Heritage Fair in Leicester

28th March Community Tree Planting with Sedgebrook Community Gardeners

20th April St. George's Day Festival in Leicester and an opportunity to do interviews and broadcasts with Soar Sound Radio

8th May Parallel Lives meeting and discussion

11th May Heritage Fair in Leicester where Friends of Evington with Decentered Media had a stand.

3rd June Bloom/IYN meeting at Ginns and Gutteridge to share ideas for our Bloom competition and working together

8th June Evington Village D Day celebrations

13th June Defibrillator put in place and added to the network 924/7 availability.)

28th June Meeting with support from Voluntary Action Leicester for our CAT bid for Evington Park House

1st July Judges Judith Warner and Liz Alun-Jones visit Evington for Evington in Bloom's evaluation

13th July Attendance at Independent Commission of Inquiry about the violence in Leicester in September 2023

12th Sept. Heritage Walk around Evington as part of Heritage Open Days

25th Sept. East Midlands in Bloom presentation in Melton Mowbray

29th Sept. Evington Mela organised by Best Community Charity in partnership with Friends of Evington. (The original date was 21st Sept. but torrential rain meant it was cancelled by us. Rearranging for the following week was a monumental task.)

1st Oct. Evington Community Meeting attended by many Friends of Evington volunteers.

19th Dec. Christmas Lunch with Best Community Charity

Ongoing:

2 monthly Trustees meetings

Regular supported groups meetings

2 monthly publication of Evington Echo. PDF of magazine on line at evingtonecho.uk

Preparing and submitting our Community Asset Transfer Bid for Evington Park House

MAIN INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR (18 MONTHS)
 FRIENDS OF EVINGTON → 01/07/23 → 31/12/24 (TRANSITORY)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Evington			
Annual accounts for the period			
Period start date	01/07/2023	To	31/12/2024

Section A Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Incoming resources			
Income from:			
Advertising revenue ¹	9,717		9,717
Donations ²	1,219	1,103	2,320
Grants ³		1,350	1,350
Gentle Exercises surplus ⁴		150	150
Fundraising events: Evington Mela ⁵		1,576	1,576
Total	10,936	4,179	15,113
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Printing costs ⁶	11,601		11,601
Insurance ⁷	315		315
Licenses and subscriptions ⁸	101		101
Grants ⁹		1,350	1,350
Conference expenses ¹⁰	50		50
Fixtures and fittings ¹¹	582		582
Web hosting ¹²	499		499
Postages and distribution ¹³	26		26
Tools, equipment and plants ¹⁴	65		65
Activity fees ¹⁵	485		485
Hire of venue ¹⁶	230		230
Total	13,955	-	15,305
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	- 3,019	4,179	- 192
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	- 3,019	4,179	- 192
Extraordinary items	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	- 3,019	4,179	- 192
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	-	-	-