

## Friends Of Anchorsholme Park Trustees Annual Report

28 February 2024 to 31 December 2024

### Introduction

2024 was a year of continued development of Anchorsholme Park.

The Park was subject to a major up-grade of the Blackpool drainage system by United Utilities within the park itself and the construction of new coastal defences along the western boundary of the park.

These works necessitated the complete closure of the park from May 2014 until June 2021, during which time all the amenities the park offered were removed.

By the re-opening in June 2021 a new play area, cafe and tennis, basketball and football courts were introduced. This left a “blank canvas” on the surrounding area within the park.

The Friends Of Anchorsholme Park developed a long term plan of action to encourage the local community to re-engage with the park that they had no access to for 7 years.

2021 to 2023 saw a steady improvement to the facilities of the park and a build up of a community spirit.

2024 has seen a continued growth in the community's involvement with the park.

The Friends Of Anchorsholme Park is run entirely by volunteers drawn from the local area and provides a useful contact for park users to express their requirements of the park.

New planters have been introduced to the seating areas within the park to provide a more pleasant restful environment.

New flower beds have been created with the help of local residents' involvement, donating flowers from their own gardens for use in the park.

The Junior Parkrun (ages 4 – 14), has now been in existence since September 2021. From humble beginnings of approximately 20 runners has gradually increased to approximately 60 regular runners by December 2024 and still looks like increasing further.

Regular events have been held in the park to encourage a good community atmosphere, ranging from local markets, a “party-in-the-park and annual fun fair with discounted rides.

### Summary Of Activities

The focus of the activities has been on improving the environment, improving physical and mental wellbeing for all those who visit the park and, where possible, for those who are unable to visit the park by providing “pop-up” gardens in communal areas in the local area.

Physical activities, such as basketball, tennis and football are encouraged and are free to the public.

The Junior Parkrun not only provides exercise for young children but also encourages parents to run with their children.

Communication of activities taking place on the park is by noticeboards in the park (including tide times due to the close proximity of the sea), by the Friends of Anchorsholme Park web page that also provides the facility of feedback as well as social interaction with the visitors to the park.

In 2024 the Friends of Anchorsholme Park have built up relationships with some local businesses who allow the use of collection boxes and provide some recycled materials free of charge for use in the park.

Partnerships with other Friends Groups are maintained by attending regular Open Spaces Network meetings.

### Projects For 2025

The development of various areas of interest is being planned.

Decorative benches are to be provided as rest areas for those with mobility issues to improve accessibility to all parts of the park.

Information board and signposts to be provided covering the history of the park and landmarks visible over the coastal views from the park are planned.

Identifying which species of trees are capable of withstanding the coastal environment of the park are planned to encourage more diversity of habitats.

Investigation into the possibilities of using renewable energy is to be undertaken to encourage the park to be more environmentally friendly.

The intention is to ensure the park is in a position to obtain the Green Flag Award.

The current activities such as gardening, litter picking, the honesty library and general maintenance is to be continued to, at least, the present level. The recent recruitment of more volunteers will assure that this will be achieved.

The financial level of the Friends of Anchorsholme Park is encouraging, but careful planning of the proposed project is essential to ensure this is maintained.

Paul Worthington (Chairman)

Paul Galley (Secretary)

Emma Ellison (Treasurer)

**SUMMARY 28/02/2024 TO 31/12/2024**

| MONTH    | DESCRIPTION | INCOME    | OUTGOING  | BALANCE    |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Feb 2024 | 100 Club    | £2.00     |           | £10,409.09 |
| Mar 2024 | 100 Club    | £27.00    |           | £10,436.09 |
|          | Event       | £752.00   |           | £11,188.09 |
| Apr 2024 | 100 Club    | £34.00    |           | £11,222.09 |
|          | Donations   | £2,260.00 |           | £13,482.09 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £1,168.00 | £12,314.09 |
|          | Event       | £154.99   |           | £12,469.08 |
| May 2024 | 100 Club    | £29.00    |           | £12,498.08 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £1,628.22 | £10,869.86 |
|          | Event       | £3,276.25 |           | £14,146.11 |
| Jun 2024 | 100 Club    | £30.00    |           | £14,176.11 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £710.00   | £13,466.11 |
|          | Event       | £195.00   |           | £13,661.11 |
| Jul 2024 | 100 Club    | £34.00    |           | £13,695.11 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £1,500.00 | £12,195.11 |
|          | Event       | £333.85   |           | £12,528.96 |
| Aug 2024 | 100 Club    | £29.00    |           | £12,557.96 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £80.00    | £12,477.96 |
|          | Event       | £9.75     |           | £12,487.71 |
| Sep 2024 | 100 Club    | £32.00    |           | £12,519.71 |
|          | Event       | £101.40   |           | £12,621.11 |
| Oct 2024 | 100 Club    | £32.00    |           | £12,653.11 |
|          | Event       | £78.00    |           | £12,731.11 |
| Nov 2024 | 100 Club    | £30.00    |           | £12,761.11 |
|          | Cheque      |           | £80.00    | £12,681.11 |
|          | Event       | £48.75    |           | £12,729.86 |
| Dec 2024 | 100 Club    | £34.00    |           | £12,763.86 |
|          | Insurance   |           | £814.00   | £11,949.86 |
|          | Event       | £1,379.00 |           | £13,328.86 |