



Annual Report & Accounts 2022

Friends of Cotteridge Park is a registered charity in England and Wales 1181644.





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Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their **Annual Report and Accounts** for the year ended 31 December 2022



Image: Save the park campaign, 1997

Objectives

The charity's public benefit objectives, following guidance from the Charity Commission, are contained in its Constitution and are:

- For the benefit of the inhabitants of the surrounding area of Cotteridge Park and visitors to the area (“the beneficiaries”)
- The promotion of the provision of facilities for the education, recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the beneficiaries without the distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a. The promotion, support and improvement of Cotteridge Park
 - b. Organising programmes of physical, educational, creative and other activities on the interests of social welfare, primarily in and around the park.



2022 - the year after the pandemic

Like many community groups 2022 was the year we were able to get back to something like normal.

CoCoMAD came back and lots of our regular activity sessions could settle back to their usual routine, offering opportunities for improving our community's physical and mental wellbeing.

As a result of the pandemic even more people had got the “going to the park” habit and Cotteridge Park and its volunteers were ready to welcome them.



Volunteering in Cotteridge Park

“I started volunteering to help the local community but the reverse has happened. I have greatly benefited from sharing time with other volunteers, meeting families enjoying the park, hearing the bird song and the wind in the trees – all good for the soul”

Bob F, Shed volunteer

Although we get some great support from our friends at Birmingham City Council Parks Service most of the work looking after the park is done by local volunteers.

In 2022 Cotteridge Park volunteers recorded working for.

6,362 hours

At the living wage that’s the equivalent of giving more than.

£63,000

Cotteridge Park Volunteers

Our wonderful volunteers:

- Garden and litter pick
- Support forest school sessions
- Run The Shed
- Run activities like Walking Netball and Knit and Natter
- Organise and run events like CoCoMAD
- Manage the website and social media
- Manage the business of the charity - governance and finance



Image: volunteers Tony & Marian

Welcome to The Shed



Image: The Shed with its Summer sunflowers

The Shed celebrated its 2nd birthday in August 2022.

Thanks to the generosity of the volunteers The Shed is open 7 days a week running a busy programme of activities benefiting the physical and mental wellbeing of our community.

- Knitting, painting, crafts and woodcarving
- Zumba, yoga, dance and Tai Chi
- Walking and running groups
- Social groups for older people
- Pay-as-you-feel homemade soup lunches

These sessions are only possible thanks to the support of our kind funders and the generous contributions of the people who visit the park.

All the income generated by The Shed goes into providing services for the community.

The Shed also provides a place for a drink and very important access to toilets

The Shed Volunteers

From opening on Christmas Day (in case anyone is on their own at home), to training young (and older) people in barista and front-of-house skills The Shed is here for our community.

We are really proud of the training and work experience we are able to offer. Many have started at The Shed and gone on to use their new skills to find paid work.

Our oldest volunteers are in the 70s and 80s, our youngest Shed volunteers are 14.

The Shed volunteers' Whatsapp group is a delightful mix of offers to help plus photos of coffee drunk on holidays often unfavourably compared to the coffee made in The Shed.



Image: Shed volunteers Edie and Hugh on Christmas Day

Drawing Cotteridge Park

Let's draw (or paint) our beautiful park together!

Join other local amateur artists and be inspired to draw or paint by the park.

Bring your materials to The Shed
Tuesdays 12pm
FREE



FANCY DANCING YOURSELF FITTER?
DON'T KNOW YOUR RIGHT FROM YOUR LEFT?

SWING FIT

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

ADULTS, CHILDREN, IT'S GREAT FOR BEGINNERS



SATURDAYS AT 10AM

FREE!

MEET AT THE SHED

Sally Oak
Live
Laugh
Love



BABY BUGGY STROL

TUESDAYS AT 1PM

MEET AT THE SHED

CRAFTERNOON

ADULTS CRAFTING SESSION

AT THE SHED
MONDAYS 2PM

KNIT & NATTER

BRING YOUR WOOL, FABRIC, NEEDLES AND HOOKS AND JOIN IN

WEDNESDAYS AT 10.30AM

MEET AT THE SHED

PRE-SCHOOLERS FOREST SCHOOL



TUESDAYS AT 11:30

MEET AT THE SHED



SHED SOUP

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
12.30-2

AT THE SHED
PAY WHAT YOU FEEL

ZUMBA With Addie

Zumba is an easy to follow, Latin-inspired, dance fitness party

FREE - All abilities welcome

Children must be accompanied by an adult

in Cotteridge Park

Saturdays 10.30am

At The Shed



CoCoMAD and other events in 2022

After the enforced 2 year break our wonderful free community festival was back in 2022.

It rained quite a bit but that didn't put off the volunteers, the performers or the visitors.

Everyone was so pleased to be back together, after the pandemic, with their friends, family and neighbours.

CoCoMAD 2022 had music, arts, woodland activities, science, dance, great food and lots of community stalls.

2022 also saw the return of our outdoor cinema and the solstice carols



Young People in Cotteridge Park

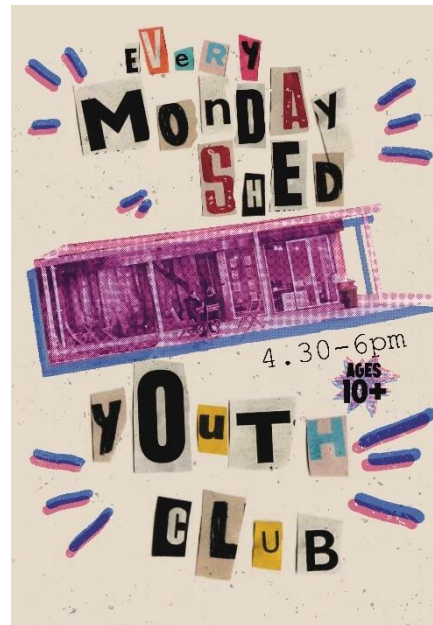
Lifting of restrictions enabled lots of our activities to return:

This included a programme of forest school sessions for families, pre-schoolers and with local schools and youth organisations.

We were also able to continue our work to develop a youth club at The Shed providing space for older children

2022 saw the Commonwealth Games come to Birmingham and the Baton Relay stopped in Cotteridge Park for a children's fun day.

And we have been delighted to host the returning young conservation volunteers back after the covid break.



Future Plans

For 2023 there are a number of plans we want to put into action

- Refurbishment of the playing courts area so that they meet the needs of the local community – particularly the increasing number of young people using the courts to play basketball and Bike Polo
- Development of more services for young people. Post covid we hope to bring back the volunteer programmes with local schools
- A review of the management plan for the stream in the park to deal with the erosion of the banks and to increase the health of the stream for wildlife and learning.
- Look to employ a full-time Shed manager so we can offer more services for our community



Image: Map of Cotteridge Park created by Kerry Leslie

Thank You

None of the work for our community would be possible without the generous support of our funders in 2022.

- The National Lottery Community Fund & Sport England
- Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme
- Cotteridge Quaker Meeting
- BFI/Film Hub Midlands
- Birmingham City Council CIL & Celebrating Communities
- Tesco Community Grant
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- National Grid Community Matters Fund
- Eveson Charitable Trust

And our friends at Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum & Birmingham Community Matters

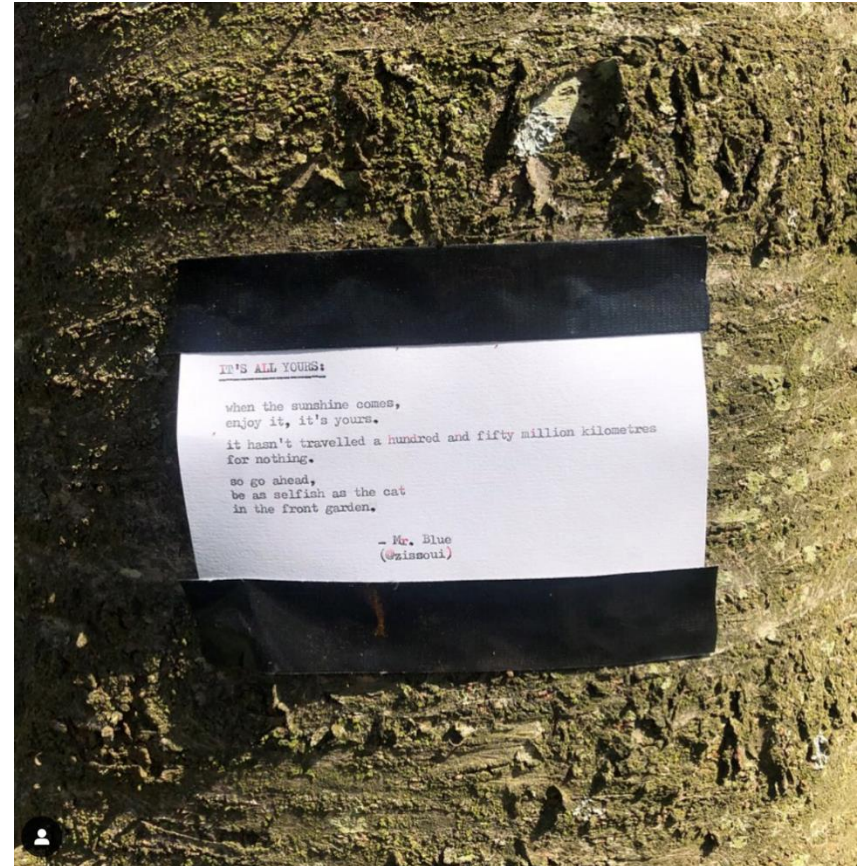


Image: One of the many poems contributed to Cotteridge Park by our local poet.

THANK YOU TO THE COTTERIDGE PARK COMMUNITY – THE VOLUNTEERS, SESSION LEADERS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, SCIENTISTS AND ALL THE PARK USERS

Financial Review

Financial review

Income and expenditure for 2022 was in line with budgets.

We were successful in obtaining grants which enabled FoCP to continue to provide activities for free for the benefit of the local community.

The accounting software introduced last year has helped make budgetary management more efficient.

Reserves and reserves policy

Trustees consider that in the current uncertain climate, and in particular the continued reductions in funding for parks and 'softer' social activities, that excluding costs associated with the annual CoCoMAD festival, the charity should aim to hold an unrestricted reserve equivalent to a minimum of 3 months running/delivery costs for park activities and general running costs.

Unrestricted cash funds at the end of 2022 stand at £51K which trustees consider to be in line with the above intent. A further £31k is held in restricted funds for projects to continue in 2023.

Although the capital spending on The Shed is complete there is a continued need to focus on grants and donations to fund activities that will benefit the local community.

We expect The Shed will continue to generate income to help support activities in the park but some of the income will need to be set aside for repairs and maintenance for the building.

This year's budget has been drawn up to enable trustees to monitor spend against our plans. This takes into account additional financial responsibilities in running a building such as cleaning and catering supplies, electricity, repairs, and maintenance.

Structure and Governance

The Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO is a membership organisation for those who enjoy and use Cotteridge Park and was registered as a charity on 21 January 2019. It began its activities on 1 June 2019 following the transfer of funds from the old charity.

The Trustees were appointed on registration, represent the members, and manage the business of the charity on their behalf. The charity has no employees and is run entirely by volunteers.

The charity holds regular management meetings open to all members, and quarterly Trustee meetings.

Reference and administrative details

Friends of Cotteridge Park

c/o 44 Franklin Road, Birmingham B30 2HG

Registered Charity Number 1181644

Trustees

Trustees 2022

Laura Brooks - Chair

Emma Woolf MBE - Vice Chair

Max Woolf

Carola Lange - Secretary

Lyndsey Berry

Ian Mather - Treasurer

Cathal Lynch

Jason Willets

Sally Wiley (from Jan 2022)

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Independent Examiner

Karen Hanlan, Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited, 1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Signed, by the Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signature:

Print name: Laura Brooks

Date: 9 October 2023



Image: The Shed from the Millennium Wood by Tracy Fleming

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO on the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Cotteridge Park CIO ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 19 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Karen Hanlan, ACA, ACIE

Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Ltd

1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date: 9.10.23

Receipts and payments accounts

Year ended 31 December 2022

	Un- restricted Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
Grants	-	57,478	57,478	44,315
Donations	9,399	-	9,399	7,634
Income from activities	57,041	-	57,041	25,945
Bank Interest	240	-	240	-
Total receipts	66,680	57,478	124,158	77,894
Payments				
Fundraising costs	5,389	-	5,389	1,283
CoCoMAD event	11,870	15,243	27,113	6,647
CoCoPopUps	-	-	-	2,488
Park Building Project	-	-	-	1,000
Science Project	-	-	-	4,970
GOATS project	-	-	-	204
Cinema project	-	329	329	4,990
Forest School	-	4,476	4,476	-
Swingfit Activity Sessions	1,637	14,014	15,651	11,756
SprayArt	-	3,520	3,520	-
Catering supplies for 'The Shed'	18,554	186	18,740	10,329
Costs of running 'The Shed'	4,940	975	5,915	2,068
Shed Manager	991	3,457	4,448	-
Insurance	1,212	-	1,212	1,175
Independent Examiner's Fee	900	-	900	750
Administrative expenses	3,842	460	4,302	3,053
Total payments	49,335	42,660	91,995	50,713
Net receipts over payments	17,345	14,818	32,163	27,181
Transfer between funds	(7)	7	-	-
Cash funds at beginning of year	34,058	16,294	50,352	23,171
Cash funds at end of year end	51,396	31,119	82,515	50,352

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 31.12.22	Total funds 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£
- Current account	23,719	-	23,719	34,913
- Deposit account	30,122	31,119	61,241	20,000
- Square account balance	(198)	-	(198)	111
- Debtors	-	-	-	1,600
- Creditors	(2,247)	-	(2,247)	(6,272)
Total	51,396	31,119	82,515	50,352

Restricted fund balances	Fund balance at 1/1/2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers between funds	Fund balance at 31/12/22
	£	£	£	£	£
CoCoMAD	1,303	4,985	(6,288)	-	-
Together for the planet	-	6,800	(6,798)	(2)	-
Youth Worker Project	3,480	1,325	-	-	4,805
Cinema Project	-	400	(490)	90	-
Happy Healthy	-	-	-	-	-
Cotteridge	6,202	-	(3,460)	-	2,742
Music & Movement project	410	-	(410)	-	-
Places Called Home	4,887	-	(2,141)	-	2,746
CoCoPopUps	12	-	-	-	12
Soup Lunch Club	-	7,890	(4,861)	-	3,029
Couch to £5k	-	5,820	(3,603)	-	2,217
SprayArt Graffiti	-	4,514	(3,845)	-	669
Forest Schools	-	8,020	4,514	-	3,506
Commonwealth Games	-	2,238	(2,157)	(81)	-
Woodcarving	-	1,700	-	-	1,700
Quaker Forest Schools	-	1,250	-	-	1,250
Warm sessions in the Shed	-	6,560	(3,528)	-	3,032
Thai Chi	-	5,976	(565)	-	5,411
Total	16,294	57,478	(42,660)	7	31,119

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by the Chair, Friends of Cotteridge Park on 9.10.23

Signature:

Print name: Laura Brooks

Notes to the accounts - Restricted Funding for 2022

CoCoMad

Funding from the Royal Society of Chemistry Outreach Fund to fund the Community Festival.

Together for the Planet

Funding from National Lottery Community Fund towards certain activities at the CoCoMAD Community Festival.

Youth Workers in Cotteridge Park

Funding from Cotteridge Quaker Meeting and supporting an application to Awards for All with Friends of Bournville Park. Some funding also re-directed, with permission from the funder, from a storytelling project that had to be cancelled because of the pandemic

Cinema Project – funding from BFI

Shed Soup - Funding from the Eveson Charitable Trust towards the delivery of a weekly lunch club for the over 50's at the Shed.

Couch to £5k - Funding from Sport England to get people active in the Midlands.

SprayArt Graffiti - Funding from the Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund for Spray-Art Graffiti Workshops for Young People.

Forest Schools - Funding from the National Lottery Awards for All and Cotteridge Quaker Meeting towards Family Forest Schools.

Commonwealth Games - Funding from Birmingham City Council for Celebrating Communities at the CoCoMAD Community Festival.

Woodcarving - Funding from the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust towards the provision of weekly Woodcarving for Mental Wellbeing Sessions in 2022/23

Warm Sessions in the Shed - Funding from National Grid to provide Community Activities in the Shed.

Tai Chi, Walking Group, SwingFit and Walking netball -

Assets - The Shed

Building works & fitting out of 'The Shed' were completed in 2020 at a total cost of £219,000. The Shed is a venue for indoor and outdoor activities as well as providing a meeting place & café. The Shed is run entirely by volunteers.