

Friends of Barshaw Park
Trustees Annual Report
For Year ended 31 March 2020

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2020

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name: Friends of Barshaw Park
Charity Number: SCO 45147
Address:
26/3 Riccartbar Avenue, Paisley, PA2 6BG

Current Trustees

Treasurer
Irene McDonald Treasurer/Secretary
Wendy Maine Committee member
Michael Fedigan Committee member
Robert Rooney Committee member

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) It was registered in its current legal form on 1st October 2015

It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are members of the charity

Appointment of Trustees

The Management Committee which normally meets on the second Monday of each month, appoints the Trustees from its members.

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is held in April. There must be a minimum of four and a maximum of eight trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The purpose of the charity is to protect and improve the environment of Barshaw Park, provide recreational facilities, and activities within the park and advance the education of future generations of park users for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Activities

The charity promotes membership of the organisation and takes the views and opinions of park users on the current state of the park and their visions for its future. We work with the local authority to ensure future investment and maintenance of the park.

We organise activities within the park for volunteers working in the walled garden and events for park visitors. We set up the junior park run and continue to support it. This year we have introduced art and craft classes in the Walled Garden and in the Rowantree Cafe within the park. We liaise with other park users, such as Paisley Model Yacht Club, Paisley Society of Model

Engineers, and Active Communities to promote and facilitate their activities in the park.

We have a presence at local events such as Barshaw Gala Day and Ralston Community Games, to promote membership and awareness of Friends of Barshaw Park.

We have obtained funding from the Local Area Committee and Local Partnership

We have continued to have a good working relationship with the Local Authority, Community Groups, Volunteer Groups and started working with the Mirin Group for young adults with learning difficulties.

The local Authority have agreed to carry out repairs to the boating pond to eradicate weed and make the pond suitable for sailing model boats again. The Local Authority have allocated an initial amount of £100,000 for this work.

The Development Officer appointed by the Local Authority left once his term of contract expired and unfortunately the application for the Heritage Lottery was not submitted, which was very disappointing.

Once again, we took part in the it's Your Neighbourhood programme which is part of Keep Scotland Beautiful, and we were delighted to receive a level 4 (Thriving)Award again for the Walled Garden, which is maintained

by our Volunteers. This is the second highest award available.

The junior parkrun continued to take place every Sunday morning and the number of participants is maintained at around 50 every week.

Again this year, we had a full programme of volunteer days in the Walled Peace Garden, and the number of active volunteers has increased once again. We improved the planting in the Walled Garden and introduced new and interesting plants and trees.

We repeated our Open Day again in May, but without the participating in the Scottish Gardens Scheme , A small Orchestra played and Paisley Opera performed popular classics.

We charged a small fee for admission which covered our costs and raised some funds. The event was well supported and received a very positive review in the local press.

We started a Community Connections programme with funding from the Local Area Committee. Art in the park was part of this. Weekly art classes were held in the open air within the Walled Garden. Classes were delivered by established local artists. Participants came from the local community in all age groups. Many had no experience, and we were delighted to see that some are continuing with art as a hobby.

In the Autumn we staged an Art Show of some of the work completed during the art classes. The Rowantree Cafe proprietors hosted the show, and one wall of the premises is maintained as a gallery for the work of our volunteers. Some of the work is for sale, with part of the proceeds going to our funds.

We also received funding for a screen to be installed in the cafe to promote the work of Friends of Barshaw Park, and show new and vintage photographs and films of the park.

In December, as part of Art in the Park, we delivered Christmas Wreath making classes, and offered some wreath for sale at the jingle Bell Fun Run as part of our joint working with Active Communities.

Financial Review

The balance of the grant from the Local Area Committee of the Local Authority for our work in the Walled Garden was received and we received a grant from the Local partnership to deliver Art in the Park and to purchase equipment.

We continue to have the support of the proprietors of the Rowantree Cafe who allow us to hold our meetings in the cafe, which saves considerable expense.

Reserves Policy

Our overheads running costs are low as we do not have any premises and have no paid employees. Our only regular outgoings are insurance premiums for liability insurance. This cost has increased as our numbers of volunteers have grown. We maintain reserves of £500 for these costs.

Plans for Future Period.

We will continue to promote membership of Friends of Barshaw Park and recruit more volunteers. We will seek to work with more local and national organisations.

We will advertise in local publications and online, and in the Park Notice Boards. We will develop our good relationship with local press.

Regular gardening events will be planned for the walled garden in the coming months

We will continue to consult with park users on their wishes for the future of their park, and seek funding for small projects in the Park, and deliver activities to engage the local community .

We aim to start considering area out with the walled garden for groups such as the Mirin and other groups for citizenship projects.

As our financial year was coming to an end, the Covid crisis was emerging, and this will affect our plans for the coming year. There will be additional expenditure to on hygiene and other equipment to keep our volunteers safe, and to comply with Covid regulations.

We will need to change our way of working, and will seek to deliver activities remotely, and to keep in touch with our volunteers by good communication.