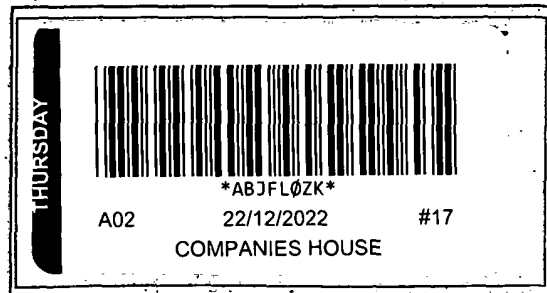
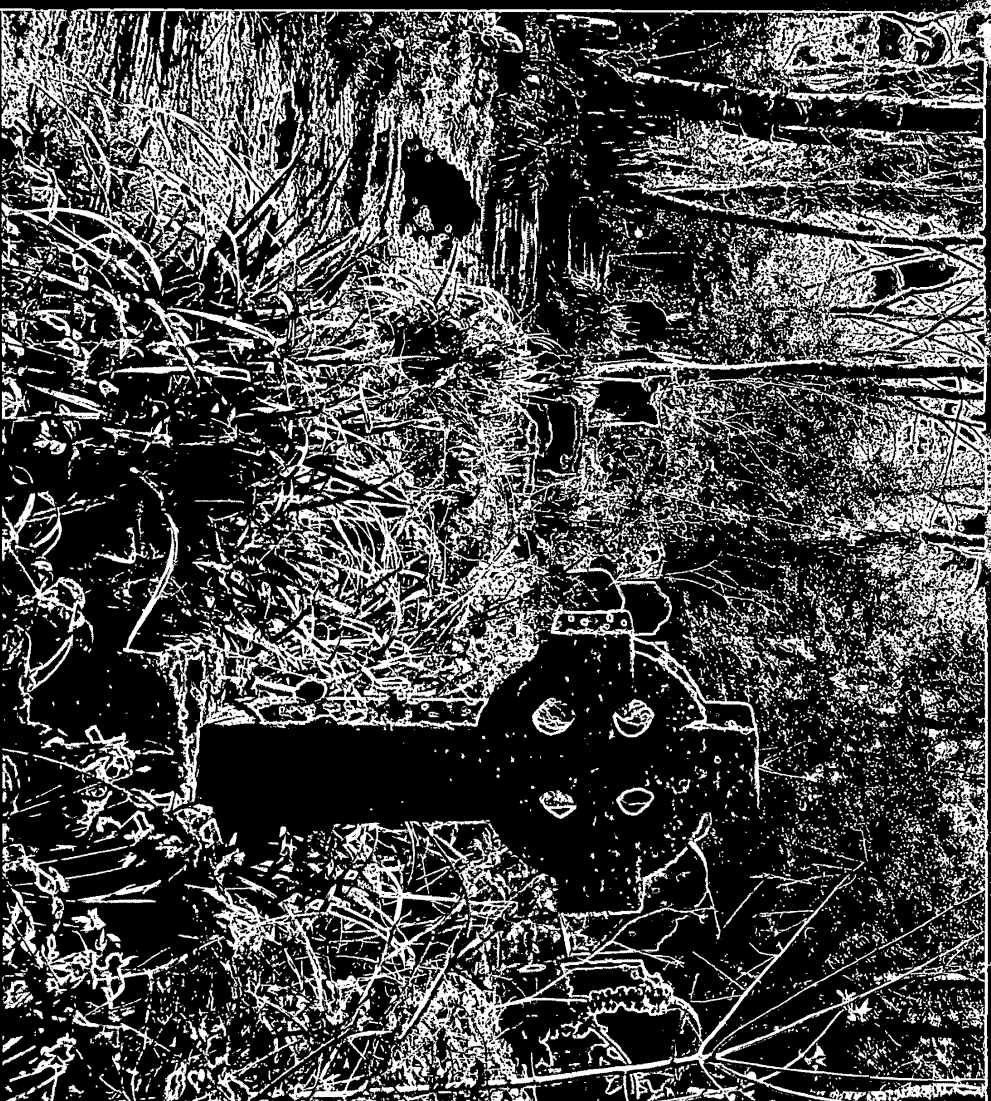


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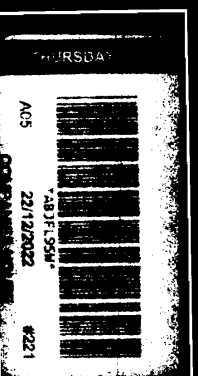




The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2022

www.fothcp.org
Registered Charity No. 1107136
Registered Company No. 5233566





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Green Flag Awards 2021

Community Winner



London in Bloom Awards 2021

Large Conservation - *Gold*

Heritage Park/Garden of the Year - *Gold*

Large Cemetery - *Gold*



Like many, we had been hopeful that the pandemic would disappear, but sadly the challenges continued. Fortunately, we had weathered last year's challenges well and we have emerged from this period in a strong position.

I'm incredibly thankful to the staff, volunteers, partners and all who have continued to support the FoTHCP. It is not an exaggeration that these contributions are critical to the survival of our organisation. As events and volunteering were resumed and ceased in line with regulations, many worked hard to keep the site management up to scratch and continued with online events to continue to connect with and inspire the community. I'd like to say a special thank you to Terry Lyle for freely sharing his experience and knowledge, and to Diane Kendall for being a driving force in keeping the heritage

and history of the Cemetery Park alive. I'd like to particularly thank and recognise Fran Humber, who has stepped down as Chair of the Board, for her huge contributions to the FoTHCP over her tenure, and especially against the additional challenges that the pandemic has brought. Fran's guidance and drive has directly contributed to the FoTHCP being so well placed to take on new projects such as delivering the Conservation Management Plan.

The pandemic has vividly highlighted to me the value that Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park has for so many in the local area. Tower Hamlets has one of the highest population densities in the country with a housing mix skewed towards flats with minimal green space. Many visitors have shared with me that the Cemetery Park was a lifeline for them during these turbulent times; allowing

them to escape to a green space where they can enjoy a brief moment of respite. For me, this makes the hard work of the FoTHCP so worthwhile and I know that many of our staff and volunteers feel the same way.

We have also developed and stewarded additional sites in the area including Fairfoot Road pocket park. Such spaces give us new ways to connect with the wider local community, and provide essential corridors for non-human populations to survive and thrive. The main historic Cemetery Park site remains our top focus, and we have begun efforts to develop our Conservation Management Plan (CMP), a really important milestone in our stewardship of the site. The CMP will allow us to be better able to document, celebrate and share the inherent heritage of the site – from its monuments and pathways to its stories. We've been especially pleased to see such high levels of interest and engagement from the local community and stakeholders in this major initiative.

Like many in the community, we were all incredibly saddened at the death of Ranjith Kankanmalage in the Cemetery Park in August. The site was closed for over two weeks

as the police conducted their investigations. I was proud of all staff and volunteers who worked to reassure the community at this very difficult time. We remain committed to making the site a welcoming and safe space for all in our community.

Sadly the pandemic has impeded our ticketed events calendar and the number of corporate groups we could welcome, which has had an impact on revenues. The ongoing forecast for many small charities such as ours has somewhat improved, but we are working hard to 'catch up'. We also acknowledge that amid the wider landscape there is increased competition for funding. The inflationary pressures experienced at the moment, may also make cost control challenging. Accordingly, we are thankful for the financial and in-kind support we have been given by so many donors, fundraisers and organisations.

We very much look forward to 'what's next' for the site we all love so much.

Toby
Interim Chair of the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

From the Cemetery Park Manager

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the past year has still been very challenging for those involved in managing and maintaining the Cemetery Park. I am immensely proud of how everyone has risen to this challenge - from developing new ways of working and keeping in touch, to maintaining support where needed. Everyone has done their best to keep a sense of community and to combat the isolation all of us have felt at some time or other during the past year.

April 2021 saw many restrictions being eased. As people's lives returned to 'normal' we saw a slight drop in the use of the Cemetery Park for the first time since the start of the pandemic. In line with government guidance, we were able to increase the number of community volunteering sessions we offered and also welcome some corporate groups back. These (very-welcome!) sets of hands allowed us to catch up on and improve the care of the Cemetery Park beyond the 'essentials' we'd been able to cover with a reduced team. In particular, we welcomed many corporate volunteer teams in Autumn who contributed to the site care before activities were again ceased as the Omicron variant struck.

The Hands-on Heritage volunteering sessions have proved to be very popular, along with a new calendar of activities with a heritage and history theme, showing there is strong interest in these topics as well as the more conservation and nature-focused activities. Beyond these, our Heritage Officer, Claire, has led the exciting development of our very-first Conservation Management Plan. This has involved extensive consultation with community, park users and stakeholders to inform short- and long-term projects. The CMP will help the FoTHCP to better document and understand the existing heritage within the site, establish a framework for future work within the site, and improve our visitor and community offering and experience. It was originally commissioned as part of

National Heritage Lottery Funding for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (THCP), secured by the FoTHCP. The FoTHCP have subsequently sought additional support, including from The Pilgrim Trust and its own reserves.

Michelle, our Community Outreach Co-ordinator who ran our Nature & Us programme, left us in July 2021 and went on to a social prescribing role. Her three years with us were extremely fruitful and we're grateful to all the new links and partners we made because of her. She'll be missed and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

The grant we were awarded by Tower Hamlets Council in 2020 to develop the small area of derelict land to the south-east of the Cemetery Park continues. Two years into the Fairfoot Woods project, we see the site is maturing into a very pleasant place. It's well used by local residents and visitors and we've received much positive feedback. In 2022 we will add a new footpath and gateway into the site, as well as seating, signage and bins. These additional green spaces outside of the historic Cemetery Park walls, including the Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, form part of a valuable green corridor heading east out to the Lea Valley, supporting wider conservation and bio-diversity efforts.

During the peak of the pandemic, we continued to host nature focused online events offering the possibility to the public to explore the park and how its flora changes through the seasons. Into 2022, and as concerns around coronavirus have eased, we have carefully increased our calendar of events and activities. We are looking forward to welcoming new and familiar visitors to the site as we continue to share the fascinating heritage and nature of the Cemetery Park.

See you there!

Ken
Cemetery Park Manager

At the heart of the park

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park ("Friends", "FoTHCP")

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. This woodland cemetery is a unique place of transformation: a people's cemetery, a sanctuary for humans as well as nature, a place for festivals, field studies and forest schools. Always changing with the seasons, it is rooted in the history of ordinary people, a place of rich heritage that is full of possibilities and freedom for all.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is an award-winning local charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park. Founded in 1990, our skilled staff and volunteers across nature and heritage bring energy, knowledge and vision to the shape and future of the site for the benefit of all who use it.

We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and maintain and develop it for enjoyment, remembrance and learning for everyone. We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement and understanding of its local history; support local health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion.

Each year we provide hundreds of free activities and volunteer opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

Our Mission

We work to install an ethos of freedom in the Cemetery Park as a people-centric charity, exploring history, improving mental wellbeing and managing the woodland and meadows in as light a way as possible.

Our Values

1 Growth

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

2 Freedom

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

3 Friendship

We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.

4 Openness

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.

Strategic Reports

Nature & Conservation

The historic space within the Cemetery Park walls has become a haven for nature and conservation, and many of the visitors and event participants marvel at the sanctuary feel within the site. The Conservation Management Plan also documents the historic planting and tree lines within the Cemetery Park and will be a useful reference point for the FOTHCP. We have several of which have supplied the materials also worked to coppice the self-sown sycamores, for the new green woodworking courses, and to maintain a wider diversity of trees. We will also be looking at light and the tree canopy, in particular its support or detriment to biodiversity. This will be particularly important as we monitor and respond to the impact of the Bow Gasworks development which we expect to block natural light within the Cemetery Park.

Biodiversity

We're thankful for the efforts and expertise of Mark Patterson, Gino Bignoli and Edward Miller in surveying solitary bees, bees, spiders and other small creatures. Biodiversity is an important indicator of the health of the site, and we are mindful that our actions can have a very real impact on the populations that we share the site with. We acknowledge that our research can only scratch the surface, and is limited to the hours being in the right place at the right time. We also struggle to research the canopy levels of the woodlands. That said, we are excited to have made a number of notable discoveries including some species seen for the first time within the site (or indeed London). **Butterflies** are by far the most studied and most readily observed insects. But even larger and more conspicuous butterflies are only recorded if there's an observer. For instance, Silver-washed Fritillaries were present in every year from 2005 to the present day, with the exception of 2016. We can be quite sure they were present in 2016 and that males and females found each other, as they are equipped to do so. On the other hand, we were incredibly excited by a needle-in-a-haystack discovery in April 2021. The strange insect in a half-curtled leaf turned out to be a rather rare species of UK-native sawfly, whose larvae feed on honeysuckle. Neither of the two UK species had ever been recorded in the London area, and sawfly expert, Andrew Green, identified it as *Abia aenea* (Honeysuckle Sawfly), which is the nationally scarcer of these two species. Such a find strongly suggests that we have a population, and it's part of a wider London population, but they remain elusive. Sawflies are in the insect order Hymenoptera, whose more familiar members are bees, wasps and ants. We've seen a few species of sawfly in the Park but there are certainly many more we have not encountered. The most readily found are the larvae of *Alnus* cistus, which often defoliate the small wild rose bushes in early summer.

Through our 2021, 1997 spiders were collected by pitfall-traps, representing 60 species, with a further 8 species identified by search and sweep-nets. These numbers are almost identical to the prior year in terms of numbers and numbers of species. Yet again, the total count of pioneer spiders continues to fall, which is an excellent sign of the ecological health of the Cemetery Park. As habitats mature species richness increases, so therefore pioneer species numbers would be expected to reduce. A full report on the results of 13 years of pitfall-trapping spiders from 2009 to 2021 will appear in the upcoming edition of the *London Naturalist*.



This year three species of spider were added to the list, although of these only one was really new. A single female of the tiny orange six-eyed spider *Conopsis pulchra* was trapped at Lodge Graves in May 2021. This species is easily overlooked and is probably substantially under-recorded with only 9 localities recorded in the London/Middlesex area, and none of these west of Hammersmith. *Phidippus phidippioides*, the 'Daddy-long-legs-spider' is common indoors, especially throughout the Soanes Centre(s), though is only recorded officially for the first time in 2021. Lastly, the tiny hunter spider, *Micaria micans*, was recorded: previously it was thought that *Micaria* specimens recorded were the same species as *Micaria micans*.

common *M. pulchra* as the species are difficult to differentiate, but new indicators have been published and careful examination of specimens from various London sites has revealed that they are all *M. micans*.

The spider fauna of London is changing quite rapidly and other new finds are likely to turn up: *Amphiphanes numida*, a third species of buzzing spider first recorded in Britain in 2017 has been spreading rapidly and is already recorded from seven London sites – but not, so far in the Cemetery Park. Sadly we report that the **beetle** recording has ceased owing to the serious illness of Norman Heal. We hope his health improves, and we hope to resume our studies. One new beetle species was found – a small brown jewel beetle, *Agathidium cupreum*, a new arrival in Britain first recorded in 2008 and confirmed by Dr. Brian Levey at the National Museum of Wales. As part of the by-catch in the pitfall traps, **centipedes** are now being separated and sent to an expert for identification. Although none of those caught so far are particularly uncommon, so far 8 different species have been found in the Cemetery Park, including two species of the tiny *Lithobius*, another small delicate species *Schendylus nemorosus*, as well as several larger centipedes of the genera *Geophilus* and *Lithobius*. Both sexes of the longest British centipede *Haplorthius subterraneus* (up to 7 cm) have been trapped, and another more delicate long centipede *Hemitaesania*. Some other very small centipedes have been seen but not yet caught and this list is likely to grow. Some new **invertebrate** groups have been added to informal surveys over the last year including millipedes and mild bugs. Over 27 survey days 1 recorded 236 invertebrate species comprising 24% of all recorded species. These were closely followed by Hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants) at 20%, Hemiptera (true bugs) at 16%, and Coleoptera (beetles) at 13%. THCP remains an excellent site for Rambur's Pied *Shieldbug Tritomegas scutellatus* which first arrived in Britain in 2011 and the nationally scarce Large Scabious Mining Bee *Andrena hantoniensis*. On 18 July 1 recorded the first record of the nationally rare flat-footed fly *Agathomyia collini* in Tower Hamlets and the vice county of Middlesex in Sanctuary Wood.



Heritage

It has been a busy year for heritage within the Cemetery Park. The newly-created Heritage Officer staff role has enabled us to support a stronger calendar of heritage-focused events and brings in new expertise into the site. Despite some restrictions on our activities due to Covid, we have still hosted over 40 heritage events and activities over the year. Over 700 people joined events in-person from: guided tours, information sessions and creative heritage crafts workshops. We attracted a diverse range of participants including students and academics (UCL History Society; Society of Genealogists), schools and youth groups, older people's groups and LGBT family groups. We also welcomed attendees from

the USA, Canada, Peru, India, Bangladesh, Somalia and across Europe.

Our online events also proved popular, with up to 100 participants at each, and attracted a similarly broad range of attendees. Topics of interest range from the history of the Cemetery Park to family history workshops, and an academic discussion on death and Victorian culture.

We also launched a new 'Hands-On Heritage' volunteering group which has welcomed around 80 people from the local community who have worked within the Cemetery Park site, helped to reveal ivy-covered monuments - some of which have not been seen for over 20 years, recorded grave inscriptions for

family enquiries, and supported surveys of our historic landscape and significant monuments. These volunteers are also contributing to new tours and significant stories emerging from the site.

The Heritage research team have also continued to meet at least monthly, collectively contributing over 1,000 hours of volunteer time. The team met either online or in hybrid meetings as COVID-19 restrictions allowed, contending with restricted access to archive and record offices.

In September we celebrated the 180th Anniversary of the Cemetery Park (to the day). Sadly these celebrations were rather more subdued than the 170th owing to ongoing restrictions, but we were nonetheless pleased to mark the occasion as part of the London-wide Open House 2021.

In November we joined a 2-day virtual conference, hosted by the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe: *Cemeterism: Cemeteries with Stories to Tell*. It was heartening to share insights, perspectives and challenges with cemeteries across Europe, and to learn more about visitor experience and tourism within these historic sites.

As the 2020 Remembrance Service had been cancelled due to the pandemic, our 2021 service had special significance. We were delighted to welcome back Trustees, local Councillors, Cadets from the 24 Cadet Detachment (The Rifles), Scouts from 4th and 23rd Poplar, as well as members of the local community. We would like to give special thanks to Reverend Peter Turner, who kindly stepped in at the last minute to take the service.

Looking to the future of heritage within the Cemetery Park, in addition to continuing to build on our volunteering and events programmes, we have been hard at work putting together our first Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The CMP marks the start of an exciting new chapter for our organisation with opportunities to both safeguard and reinvigorate the site for future generations and better celebrate both heritage and nature within the site. The CMP will inform our work for the next 30 years, spanning restoration, preservation and new initiatives.

Community & Partners

Visitors

We are pleased that as the pandemic eased, we have been able to welcome visitors and the community back into the Cemetery Park and our additional sites. We have also managed to restart volunteering and launch some new events and volunteering opportunities. This is so important as:

- 95% of event attendees say they learn something new at our events,
- 85% feel more connected to their community through our events,
- 87% felt that events and activities improve their mental health and wellbeing, and
- 97% are likely or very likely to return to an event in the future.

We are especially committed to diversity, openness and inclusion, and are proud that our events and activities reflect this. We are also embedding this as a key component of the Conservation Management Plan, particularly around physical and virtual accessibility. We are also eager to host free / affordable events where possible so that there are no barriers to participation.



Volunteers

As a small organisation, we simply could not survive without the efforts of our volunteers. From opening or closing the gates to litterpicking, from seasonal planting to coppicing and clearing, and from heritage grave enquiries to nature monitoring, with everything else in between, we are appreciative for all these efforts. We are also eager to ensure that volunteers can learn new skills and benefit from an increased sense of community when they are on site.

Corporates

We were able to welcome corporate volunteering groups back into the site to help us 'catch up' on some of the work which was disrupted due to the pandemic as well as kick-start some new projects. Some highlights include:

From March 2022, we welcomed a group of 15 corporate volunteers from the local business community to help us with our conservation work. They have been working on a variety of projects including: clearing the paths, weeding the flower beds, and planting new plants. They have also been helping us with our fundraising efforts, including selling raffle tickets and helping us to set up a new fundraising stall.

Donors & Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts have been successful in raising a significant amount of money to support our conservation work. We have received donations from a wide range of sources, including individuals, businesses, and local organisations. We have also been successful in securing grants from local government and other funding bodies. This has allowed us to carry out a variety of projects, including the restoration of the cemetery walls and the planting of new plants.

Members

We have a growing number of members who are passionate about the cemetery and its history. They have been helping us with a variety of tasks, including clearing the paths, weeding the flower beds, and planting new plants. They have also been helping us with our fundraising efforts, including selling raffle tickets and helping us to set up a new fundraising stall.

The Future

The next year holds great promise for the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park; along with the prospect of a lot of hard work!

Our plans for the next year include:

Conservation & nature

• Ongoing maintenance and grounds-keeping as we recover from the lingering effects of the pandemic

• Finalising regeneration and improvements to sites outside of the Cemetery Park walls - i.e. Ackroyd Drive, Fairfoot Road and pocket parks

• Continuing to encourage and nurture biodiversity within the site across flora and fauna.

Heritage & history

• Continuing to develop and integrate our heritage activities driven by the Heritage Officer, including volunteering and events

• Finalising the development of the Conversation Management Plan and establishing a framework to initiate projects which celebrate our heritage

• Develop a proposal to redesign the civilian war memorial in the Cemetery Park working with local architects and other stakeholders

People & community

• Continuing to engage and support the local and wider community as they enjoy the unique space that is Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

• Continuing to offer meaningful and engaging activities in the Cemetery Park that support the needs of all visitors

• Rebuilding our corporate volunteer and fundraising bases back to pre-pandemic levels

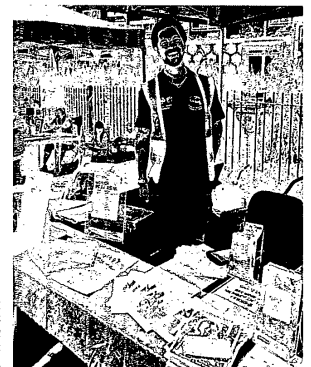
• Identifying options to make better use of the Lodge building, including fundraising to realise those improvements.

Governance

• Continuing to build capacity within the FoTHCP through staff, trustees and other key volunteers. This includes project and programme management capabilities to support the delivery of the Conversation Management Plan

• Continuing to refresh and update our policies and procedures, including addressing maintenance and restoration efforts with a focus on risk management and health and safety

• Continuing to build our financial sustainability through recovering pre-pandemic income streams and engaging with Tower Hamlets Council to review the existing Service Level Agreement.



Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (registered company number 5233566) and is a charity registered in England and Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Frances Humber, defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company has 340 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within our articles as agreed by the trustees. The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and the Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction and ensure the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission. It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis. **The Board of Trustees is comprised of 11 Trustees as of 30th March 2022 and met four times during the year.** It is also supported by a group of trustees and volunteers who support with fundraising, policy updates, research and other organisational activities.

Representation and appointment of members and trustees

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 2 trustees and are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected Trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New Trustees are formally appointed at the AGM. The trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such postholders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

Risk management and controls

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the board.

Charitable purposes

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities. The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

- That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.



Trustees

The Trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Toby Sibley (Chair)
Fran Humber (Chair)
Terry Lyle (Vice Chair)
Louise Robinson (Vice Chair)
Jasmina Negrini
Karen Baxter
Colin Wiseman (Treasurer)
Marilyn Baltutis
Diane Kendall
Doreen Kendall
Sigrid Werner
Sally Randall
Guy Mitchell
Diane Gibb

Financial statements

Total income for the year amounted to £238,794 (2020: £221,796). There was a slight increase from 2020 due to a number of successful grants to emergency Covid-19 funds as well as our Crowdfunding efforts. This year we had to rely more heavily on grants and individual donations to replace lost income streams from corporate group donations and event income. Total expenditure for the year amounted to

£149,511 (2020: £162,662) which has slightly increased due to the addition of a fourth staff member. Expenditure was also kept to a minimum where possible due to unknown likelihood of being able to replace lost income. Our key concern is to continue to be able to maintain our staff levels, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP.

Financial results

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements. The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure for the year of £49,283 and a total of £197,215 being carried forward (of which £108,024 is unrestricted). Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity Fixed assets are set out in Note 9 to the accounts.

Service Level

The charity receives a modest Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The rest of the costs of the Cemetery Park are covered by the FoTHCP fundraising via charitable activities and grants.



The support costs of the FoTHCP are pared to the minimum and the costs of maintaining the site are very carefully managed. The charity's method of estimating the appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of the core work. In doing so, the trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped).

FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of £92,045 as follows:

The current unrestricted reserves stand at £108,724 so we are currently meeting our reserve requirement. Given the uncertainty of funding and income in the next financial year, it is likely our reserves will be reduced and not exceed our target within a few months. However, the optimum level of reserves is reviewed on an ongoing basis and at minimum once a year and may increase next year due to additional staff members and increasing operating costs.



The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then

apply them consistently;

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:

- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2021.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:
Toby Sibley
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Financial statements

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233556)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 26 to 36.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 22 - 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I 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.

Anthony Armstrong

Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner
of Armstrong & Co
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

Dated: 5 September 2022

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Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233556)

Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes	2022				2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3 73,065	67,599	-	140,664	165,500
Charitable activities	4 71,477	-	-	71,477	52,919
Investments	5 36	-	-	36	83
Other income	6 -	-	-	-	292
Total income	144,578	67,599	-	212,177	238,794
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7 107,630	92,207	-	199,837	189,511
Total expenditure	107,630	92,207	-	199,837	189,511
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	36,948	(24,608)	-	12,340	49,283
Net movement in funds	36,948	(24,608)	-	12,340	49,283
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	13 108,024	89,191	-	197,215	147,832
Total funds carried forward	13 144,972	64,583	-	209,555	197,215

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.
The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.
The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 March 2022

		31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	10	15,187		3,187	
Cash at bank and in hand	11	200,933		231,002	
Total current assets		216,100		234,189	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	6,545		38,954	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			209,555		197,215
Total net assets			209,555		197,215
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	15		64,583		89,191
Unrestricted funds	15		144,972		108,024
Total charity funds	17		209,555		197,215

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Toby Sibley

Toby Sibley
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1	(30,105)	66,704
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		36	83
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		36	83
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(30,069)	66,787
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	231,002	164,215
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	200,933	231,002

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

	2022 £	2021 £
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	12,340	49,283
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(36)	(83)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(12,000)	1,931
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(30,409)	15,578
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(30,105)	66,704
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	200,933	231,002
Total cash and cash equivalents	200,933	231,002

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233568)

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)';
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);
- the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue, and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is incurred as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Deferred income

Income received which is contractually or otherwise not expendable until a future period is deferred to the period in which it meets the criteria for income recognition.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233568)

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233568)

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service
Independent Examiner's fees - other services

	2022	2021
	£	£
	1,600	1,440
	624	480
Trustees' emoluments	-	-

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
Income from donations and legacies			£	£
Donations - individuals	26,208	-	26,208	26,332
Crowdfunding	11,118	-	11,118	41,390
Donations - organisations	11,894	-	11,894	3,794
Grants	10,685	67,599	78,484	110,344
Hosting - general	12,960	-	12,960	3,640
	73,065	67,599	140,664	185,500

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
Income from charitable activities			£	£
Membership - individuals	4,149	-	4,149	4,808
LBTH SLA	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course Fees	23,748	-	23,748	10,867
Corporate days	11,680	-	11,680	5,344
	71,477	-	71,477	52,919

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
Income from investments			£	£
Interest received	38	-	38	63
	38	-	38	63

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
Other other income			£	£
Other income	-	-	-	292
	-	-	-	292

Notes to the accounts		for the year ended 31 March 2022	
12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
		2022	2021
		£	£
		14,220	14,220
		1,590	2,151
		7,075	12,968
		30,954	28,545
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
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		15,167	3,187
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		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
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		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
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		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
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		12,166	2,966
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		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
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		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021
		£	£
		12,166	2,966
		2	177
		2	202
		2,797	1,930
		4,340	4,975
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		194,169	224,899
		2022	2021
		£	£
		15,167	3,187
		2022	2021

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
16 Restricted funds: prior period					
Cheshire Community	-	5,478	-	-	5,478
East End Emergency	-	1,228	633	-	595
Fairfoot	-	35,000	774	(106)	34,129
Groundwork	4,064	-	4,244	180	-
Heritage Emergency	-	18,600	18,600	-	-
Heritage Fund	49,130	-	17,438	-	31,692
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
London Dock community	-	2,715	-	-	2,715
Small grants	5,000	-	2,020	-	2,980
TFL	4,910	-	308	-	4,604
Tower Hill Trust	1,980	-	-	-	1,980
Tree of Hope	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Vaolia	999	1,423	3,144	722	89,191
	69,111	66,444	47,180	796	89,191

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financed by restricted funds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

Cheshire Community	To care and improve Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and other vital green spaces in the borough to improve local health and wellbeing, the local environment, understanding of the area's history and community cohesion, through twice monthly nature-based sessions such as therapeutic gardening and nature walks.
CMS Social Impact	To create a customer management system via Salesforce.
Cultural Recovery fund	Staff and event costs to help replace lost revenue.
O'Duffy Carts	Funds to support our therapeutic programme.
East End Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support additional equipment and PPE costs to allow our work to continue.
Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Groundwork	Improvements to Shandy Park through removal of tarmac and planting of bulbs and wildflowers, supported by educational events and activities for the community.
Heritage Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support our organisation's survival of the pandemic and allow us to continue working with the community.
Heritage Fund	To hire a Heritage Officer to develop a community-led conservation, management and maintenance plan for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park over 2 years. In doing so, the heritage of THCP will be accessible to a wider range of people.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
London Dock community	Nature based summer programme for young people.
Ocean regeneration	Funds to create a new wildflower meadow in Shandy Park.
Radcliffe Trust	Funds to provide greenwood working courses for disadvantaged communities.
Small grants	Establishing an "Elder Trees" community group for the over 60s for two-hour sessions, once per week (37 in total). Sessions would include activities such as sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, nature crafts, wild foods, planting and bird spotting.
TFL	Finding Your Feet: exploring Mile End, step by step is a ten-week project designed to encourage inactive and reluctant walkers living in the Mile End neighbourhood – primarily the Ossen Estate, Leopold Estate and East End Homes – to walk more regularly and confidently.
Tower Hill Trust	Funds to support infrastructure and facilities development in the Cemetery Park, supported by training opportunities for partner Grounded Ecotherapy, and volunteering opportunities. Funds for the Wild Homes project, improving habitats and providing training in countryside skills. Funds for grass cutting.
Tree of Hope	Collaboration with Pavement2Canalwalk to create a recycled art installation that will represent a tree of hope with the local community.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Funds for the improvement of meadow areas of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Scroypard Meadows and Ackroyd Drive including training opportunities for volunteers.				
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
17 Net assets attributable to funds: current period					
Current assets	151,517	-	64,583	-	216,100
Current liabilities	(6,545)	-	-	-	(6,545)
Net assets represented by funds	144,972	-	64,583	-	209,555
18 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period					
Current assets	137,003	-	97,196	-	234,199
Current liabilities	(28,979)	-	(7,573)	-	(36,552)
Net assets represented by funds	108,024	-	89,623	-	197,647

19 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

20 Post balance sheet events

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

21 Pension commitments

The charity contributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

		2022	2021
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:		£ 1,890	£ 2,151

22 Contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2022 nor at 31 March 2021.

23 Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

24 Transactions with trustees

There were no material transactions with the trustees during the year.

25 Gifts in kind and volunteers

During the year the charitable company benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

26 Major funders

In accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	Project name / Purpose of	
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Park maintenance and litter picking	£ 31,900

27 Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

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