Chair (Terry Lock) Report for 2026 AGM

June 2026

In September 2014 a meeting was convened by Gedling Borough Council to discuss the plans and ideas for the proposed Gedling Country Park. I along with many others attended the meeting but had little idea that I would be elected as one of the trustees. Furthermore, (some may say for my sins) I was elected as chairman of the group of people who had stood as trustees.

The great thing was that we banded together and helped each other extremely well. It was, I believe, aided by the fact that the first big issues we faced was helping to organise a highly successful campaign against an anaerobic digester planned for the foot of the park.

This year (2026) I finally stood down as chair and a new chair was elected by the trustees in February. I have a huge amount of happy memories of all those who have been involved, whether they have been trustees, volunteers, members, councillors and council staff or simply park users.

So, after 11 years I have passed on the mantle of chair to your new chairman and I am sure they will help the park manage its resources, work with the council and provide enjoyment to all the thousands of park users.

To all those who have been trustees over the years I pass on my grateful thanks for their help, support and ideas about what then park means to Gedling and further field.

I have had regular meetings with the council, and via the Rangers, to help with suggestions as to what work could be done and to offer advice and support. Without the support and liaison with the Rangers the work would, frankly, be impossible.

During 2025 the work carried out by the Rangers, Rob and Michael has been successful, with our help, in maintaining the Park environment during the year. Equally we are glad to see Michael back after his long illness and our thanks to Rob for shouldering the extra heavy load of work by himself.

I wish you all the very best for the future. Keep enjoying the benefits of the park, encourage more families to join the Friends and volunteer with task (not all of which involve manual work).

My wife and I will be moving back to our stamping ground of Scotland, to be near our families, so I shall not see you around the park (apart from in my memories)

I shall now leave your new chair to pass on their comments, ideas and aspirations for the future.

Friends of Gedling Country Park and Nature Reserve

APPENDIX II

Chairman's report (Chris Snelson) for the 2026 AGM (from February 2026)

I would like to thank Terry Lock, who has been chairman of the trustees since 2014 and who stepped down in February of this year, for all the hard work and passion he has given to the country park. To give over a decade of dedication is truly remarkable.
I would also like to thank my fellow trustees who have put their faith in me to continue the work that Terry started.
The conservation of the park is joint effort between the volunteers, the rangers and Gedling council. I would like to offer particular thanks to our rangers, Rob & Michael, who week in week out are there ensuring the park is fit for purpose.
To our volunteers on a Sunday and Tuesday along with the corporate volunteers who have offered numerous days of help, your contributions are invaluable. Without our volunteers the park would not look as amazing as it does. So many thanks to you all, it is much appreciated.
In February I set out to understand what the Friends' +priorities were, what our aims and aspirations looked like for this year and the next couple of years.
We have now put together a list of objectives that's not exhaustive but that will form the basis of our three-year plan. This plan will be shared with members via the newsletter.
We have highlighted to the council a number of areas where we believe the park is being failed. You would have seen them in the summer edition of our newsletter. We hope to be able to work with the council to rectify some of the issues that were raised by our members, volunteers and the public.
We also have a new logo that was created by Davide Scalisi and we thank him for his inspiring work.
Finally, thanks to much work from Anthony Keyworth, we have an additional container in our compound in the park which will provide us with more capacity to store the items we need.
If there are any members out there who would like to volunteer on a Sunday or even become a trustee and help shape the future of the park, pop down to the compound on a Sunday morning for a chat.
Thanks, and have a good summer.

Chris Snelson
Chair

Treasurer's Report – December 2025

The Friends of Gedling Country Park was formed on 29th September 2014, and this report is for our eleventh financial year for the period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025. We are a UK registered charity number: 1167205.

Introduction

As in previous years, the overall financial position of the charity is good, with the receipt of some significant donations, and membership income at a good level. Thanks must therefore be given to every member who has paid their fee this year and to every other person or organisation who has donated to us.

Each member who joins us or renews their membership has the option to confirm that they are a UK taxpayer, which enables us to claim gift aid on their membership fee. Many members have chosen to do so, and we hope that this continues and would encourage all others to do the same if they can please.

The five year membership option that we introduced in 2023 continues to save 20% compared to annual membership (costing just £20 per individual or £40 per family for up to two adults plus children under 16). This represents great value compared to the annual individual and family memberships of £5 and £10 respectively. About a third of our new members and renewals have chosen the five year membership option, which has the obvious benefit of providing a greater immediate income, but we also should recognise that this income must be spent wisely over multiple years to ensure that we cover our ongoing overheads. It also means that all of those people who choose five year membership last year will of course not need to renew this year. The total income from membership fees for 2025 was £565 compared to £585 in 2024.

Key Activities

The main project we ran during 2025 was the **Queen's Canopy Project:**

- This was a three-year project with funding of £10,494 received in 2023 and 2024 and an additional £500 from Nottinghamshire County Council Councillor John Clarke in 2025. This total of £10,994 was spent on the installation of two new Queen's Memorial Benches, an Interpretation Board and an extensive range of trees and flowers that created the Queen's Canopy woodland area, which is located towards the western edge of the park.

The Friends of Gedling Country Park manage a set of bee hives within the park and 2025 was our best year for the production and sale of our home-grown honey raising £1,024. Well done to everybody who painstakingly cared for the bees, extracted the honey and sold the 8oz and 12oz jars. I hope that those of you who purchased it, enjoyed it. Here's to another bumper crop in 2026…

To celebrate the 10th birthday of the park, in March we held an event with donations and time from supporters and friends that allowed us to run a successful tombola and talk to park users about our activities and how they could help us. Attendance was good, and the weather was great (you may remember that last March was record sunshine!).

In September, Gedling Borough Council organised a free community event, which we attended and sold in just one day most of the honey I've mentioned above.

Every three months or so, some of our Trustees and volunteers host a guided wildlife walk around the park. Thank you to those who came along, and we hope to see you soon at the next one.

Donations and Fund Raising

Gedling Borough Council runs the 'Gedling Lotto' (https://www.gedlinglotto.co.uk/), which continues to raise money for good causes, including for the Friends of Gedling Country Park and many other local community groups and charities. Those who play the Gedling Lotto can choose their good cause and a big thank you goes out to those who have chosen us. In 2025, we received donations totalling £593, which is a valuable contribution to our charity.

Thank you to Gedling Borough Councillor McCrossen who donated £400 towards the planting of green foliage in the park. Some of this was undertaken in 2025 with more to come in 2026.

Here is the complete list of people and organisations who have generously supported the Friends this year (in alphabetical order):

- Gedling Borough Council and Councillor V McCrossen
- Gedling Lotto
- Mr R Wilson
- Nottingham City Council Catering Services (who operates Cafe 1899 in the park and offers a 10% discount for all FGCP members)
- Nottinghamshire County Council and Councillor J Clarke

Income Received

The income received for the period from January 2025 to December 2025 was as follows:

Category	Amount	Description
Donations	£1,505	Donations from the various people and organisations listed above.
Honey Sales	£1,024	Sales of honey from bees lovingly cared for in the park by the Friends.
Membership Fees	£565	Membership fees taken for individual and family memberships (£340 of five year memberships and £225 of annual).
Fund Raising Events	£112	Sales of cards and tombola at the 2024 AGM, and at the 10th GCP birthday event, and nature walks.
TOTAL	**£3,206**	

Expenditure

For the same period, expenditure was as follows:

	Amount	Description
Queen's Canopy Project	£2,763	Purchase of the Queen's Canopy Interpretation Board, installation materials for the two memorial benches, and bluebells & trees installed during 2025.
Grounds Maintenance/Development	£798	Materials for the sand martin bank, and sealant for the lagoons.
Insurance	£488	Provision of public liability and volunteer personal accident insurance (also providing trustee, finance, libel and slander protection).
Fund Raising Costs	£332	Volunteer event drinks and contribution towards the cost of the 10th birthday event.
Marketing, Communications and Web	£308	Web site hosting, hire of room for the AGM, membership forms, posters, and printing costs.
Honey Making Costs	£286	Purchase of jars for honey and bee hive section racks and cases.
Finance Charges	£143	Bank service charges from Unity Bank, transaction fees from PayPal and Information Commissioner's Office Data Protection Registration Annual Fee.
Plants/Trees/Seeds	£80	Some additional woodland trees and 40x heather plants.
Forum Memberships	£60	Annual membership to the Friends of Group and the Greenwood Forum.
TOTAL	£5,258	

Bank Reconciliation

The opening balance as of 1st January 2025 was £7,877.63 (comprising of £6,855.69 held at Unity bank, £1,017.94 held with PayPal, and £4.00 of cash holdings).

Total income for 2025 was £3,205.60 and total expenditure was £5,257.81.

The closing balance as of 31st December 2025 was £5,825.42 (comprising of £4,937.54 held at Unity bank, £887.88 held with PayPal, and no cash holdings).

Nick Benedek, Treasurer, Friends of Gedling Country Park
31st December 2025