Charity No 1185399

Friends of Ellington Park CIO – 1185399

(Referred to variously as "the Charity", "the Friends", "FoEP" "CIO" hereafter)

Report January – December 2025

The major works in Ellington Park funded by The National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), have now been completed. The Charity worked in partnership with our local Council, who are the landowners, to refurbish existing heritage features and to redevelop and enhance the park to make it a welcoming space for the whole community. It has certainly had a very positive impact on the park and its users and it is very noticeable that there has been an increase in daily visitors to the park to enjoy nature, exercise, dog walk etc. but also now to use the new café and children's play area.

There are several groups of various backgrounds, ages and abilities that are using the café and park regularly and this has continued to build over the last year.

We are proud to announce that Ellington Park retained the prestigious Green Flag award and also Green Heritage Site accreditation for a fourth consecutive year – making it the only park in our district to have received these accolades. We are most grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers and local Council team who help to maintain the park to keep it at its best.

In 2025 we were once again able to arrange our largest annual event, the May Fayre, which includes stalls from local businesses and crafts people, musicians and community groups, a fun fair, vintage cars and bus and the miniature railway which is run by volunteers and has its own track and station in the park, which was also upgraded as part of the NHLF project naming it 'Ellington Halt'. This event is well attended and helps to raise funds for the Charity as well as promote Ellington Park in line with the Charity's objectives.

Having had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on recreational charities like ours, it is the view of the Trustees that the events, activities and entertainment organised or facilitated by the Charity are not only capable of improving beneficiaries' conditions of life in themselves but that they encourage beneficiaries to use the Park on a more regular basis and therefore benefit from the health and wellbeing opportunities the green space offers. This was reinforced by a survey of May Fayre event-goers this year, where 77% of the respondents said that events made them more likely to visit Ellington Park, with comments including "very important for mental health and wellbeing". Meanwhile, 49% of respondents who reported to having a back garden advised that it was smaller than half a tennis court, and a further 22% respondents had no back garden at all. This is within the context of a lack of access to green space locally: Fields in Trust's Green Spaces Index recommends 24 sqm of green space per individual; Ramsgate's Central Harbour ward, in which Ellington Park sits, is well below this figure, at 10.01 sqm of green space per individual.

We had planned our Heritage Open Day in September with the theme of an Architecture Trail to take visitors around the park and highlight the various buildings and structures that are or were there over the history of the park. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to bad weather but we hope to re-arrange for next year.

The volunteers who make up the Ellington Park Players who tell the history of the park as various characters were able to do a series of costumed walks during the summer and we hope to develop a slide presentation of this.

We also helped other charities and community organisations to host events in the park including those that attended the Young Minds Wellness Day, Christmas Fayre and Carol Concert.

After many years of support, our membership secretary retired and so we no longer have a regular income from this, although many long-term supporters still pay. We are hopeful that we can find someone new to take on this role.

Therefore, this year our main income was again from our second-hand book shop which is run solely by volunteers with all the books being donated so all of the profit goes directly to the Charity. This is an important community asset and we continue to have discussions with the local Council on how we can expand the space so that the stock doesn't need to be carried in and out each time and we can be open all-year and not be weather dependent. Again, we are very grateful to the volunteers who run this.

The Charity's unrestricted funds at the end of the reporting period were £29,981. From this we need to ring fence a certain amount for necessary expenses including the annual contract for the defibrillator, insurance, website support and other professional fees along with the costs involved to support events and activities in the park such as portaloos, first aiders, the entertainment etc. which for this year were £10,992 however, this did include a one off payment for a mediation service.

In 2026, the Trustees intend to explore what repair and maintenance work may be required in the Wildlife Garden, which is looking dilapidated and so significant expenditure may be needed on this project. The Trustees are also mindful of the need to build the Charity's resilience to enable it to further its objectives now that the NHLF project is complete.

Local schools regularly come for nature walks and some have also set up litter picking sessions. We have helped many young people achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards through volunteering activities within the park.

At the end of last year we were awarded a grant of £2000 from the local Community Lotto fund and we added £5000 from our funds which are to go towards developing a seated garden area with an accessible pathway next to the café with views looking across the park. We have ordered four benches for approx £3200 which are due to be installed in the spring and will then develop the planting design. One of our newer trustees is experienced in wildlife conservation so he is also going to be developing plans for other areas in the park.

We have recruited some new trustees with a variety of knowledge and experience to build on the existing board. One with wildlife conservation experience is going to help develop the natural aspects of the park. Others with organisational and business experience will help move the Charity forward

with grant funding applications and development of new projects. A full set of policies and procedures has been updated and a detailed volunteer handbook and procedures are to be introduced. We are extremely grateful that one of our long-standing volunteers, with a wealth of experience, has provided the Charity with solid advice and guidance. Two long-standing trustees stepped down after many years of working with and supporting the Charity; one will remain as Treasurer until someone new is recruited.

The board is working on plans for the future to further enhance the enjoyment of and involvement with the park for the whole community and we very much appreciate all of the hard work and support we receive from volunteers and our local town and district councils. We look forward to building on this for 2026.

Reserves policy for the Friends of Ellington Park 2025

The Charity's free reserves at the end of the reporting period stood at £20,281. The Trustees consider the current level of reserves to be more than enough to cover the Charity's expected expenditure for the year ahead were projected sources of income not to materialise.

The Charity has restricted funds of £2000 from Community Lotto funding held for work on a seated garden area within the park. The Charity has also committed to funding from its own reserves of up to £5000 towards this project for new benches and planting and from the total we have £3760 remaining. In addition to these funds we need to be aware of annual costs that will be required such as insurance, professional fees, equipment safety inspection plus any costs for putting on events which include additional toilets, first aiders and entertainment.

The main source of income was from our community bookshop and donations and this year we once again arranged our largest event with stalls, entertainment and funfair which brought in additional funds of £2264.

Now that the regeneration project is completed, the Trustees plan to utilise a suitable proportion of the Charity's reserves for other projects which further the Charity's objectives.

In the meantime, the Trustees are taking the opportunity to build the Charity's resilience and capacity, strengthening its reserves through fundraising activities such as the community bookshop, events and support of other organisations within the park.

Treasurer

Friends of Ellington Park CIO

Taken from the Council press release for Green Flag award July 2025



Ramsgate's Ellington Park awarded Green Flag Award for fourth consecutive year

Ellington Park in Ramsgate has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award® for the fourth year running. The site is one of 2,250 in the UK to achieve the award, which is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Ellington Park has also achieved Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management and promotion of its historic features.

In 2021, Ellington Park was restored by The Friends of Ellington Park and Thanet District Council. The National Lottery Heritage Fund supported the restoration with £1.8million from its 'Parks for People' programme.

The project was a sympathetic regeneration of the park, ensuring its important heritage remained at its heart. The park now features a multipurpose café and toilet building, along with a children's playground. The park's historic pathways, flint terrace and balustrade were restored, as was the 120-year-old bandstand.

Councillor & The Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Coastal Services at Thanet District Council said, "For the fourth year running, Ellington Park has received a Green Flag Award, which is fantastic news. The park's consistently high standards are down to the tireless hard work and dedication of council officers, the Friends of Ellington Park, and the brilliant community volunteers who keep it looking at its best. Ellington Park is a fabulous asset for the people of Ramsgate and beyond, and it's great to see it being used for all sorts of community activities. It really does get better every year."

The Friends of Ellington Park said, "We are delighted that Ellington Park has received a Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the fourth year. This is an amazing achievement for all involved and recognises the effort and commitment that goes into making the park a beautiful open space for everyone to enjoy."

Commenting on the announcement of this year's winners, **Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager** said: "Congratulations to everyone involved in Ellington Park, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that it achieves the high standards required for the Green Flag Award.

"Quality parks and green spaces like Ellington Park make the country a healthier place to live and work in, and a stronger place in which to invest.

"Crucially, Ellington Park is a vital green space for communities in Ramsgate to enjoy nature, and during the ongoing cost of living crisis it is a free and safe space for families to socialise. It also provides important opportunities for local people and visitors to reap the physical and mental health benefits of green space."

You can read more about the Ellington Park regeneration project on the TDC website.

Article from the Ramsgate Community Magazine Sept issue

which is distributed to all households in the town.

FRIENDS OF ELLINGTON PARK

Autumn in Ellington Park: a good season to visit

The weather may be cooling down, but the park's busy schedule is not.

We've had a productive year so far, with several events, arranged by either the Friends or other organisations, including the annual May Fayre, POW Summer Solstice Family Day, Wellness Day, Ellington Players Costumed Walks and other activities.



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In 2021, Ellington Park was restored by The Friends of Ellington Park and Thanet District Council. The National Lottery Heritage Fund supported the restoration with £1.8 million from its 'Parks for People' programme.
We are so proud of the work we've been able to achieve because of your support.

We'd like to thank everyone that has supported us, as we couldn't do it without you. We hope you have enjoyed your time in Ellington Park.

The park is offering a new **'Architecture Trail'**. Explore the new trail and more at the Heritage Open Day in the park on Sunday September 14, between 11am - 3pm. During the October half term break, there will also be a 'Park Life' event - please look out for details on our website. You can still enjoy all the usual amenities during the cosy season. Ellington Park Café (open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm), offers a wide variety of food and drink. While you're there, you can also join one of the regular weekly groups: **Gardening Interest Group**, **Knit & Knatter** or the **Over 50s Wellness Group**. You can find the café on Facebook or email them at **foep.cafe@gmail.com**.

Perhaps the **miniature steam** trains run by the Ramsgate & District Model Engineering Club are more your thing. The club can be contacted via their website: **www.radmec.co.uk**.

The cooler weather is the perfect time to try more outdoor sports - and perhaps a spot of bowls is in order? You can learn just what makes the sport so popular by contacting the **St Lawrence Bowls Club** on Facebook or phone them on **01843 581023**.

There's nothing like diving into a new book with a hot chocolate in hand. So why not pair an **Ellington Café** hot chocolate with an Ellington Bookshop book? Find everything from Deuteronomy to Dunkirk to Dame Judy Dench and more! The bookshop is open (weather permitting), April to October, every Wednesday and Saturday, from 12noon - 4pm.

You can find out more about the park and the opportunities for volunteering with the Friends of Ellington Park, via our website: **www.ellingtonpark.org.uk** or you can contact us at **friendsofellingtonpark@gmail.com** or find us on Facebook.

Written by: James Bonthron
Friends of Ellington Park

Info about the miniature railway in the park.

RADMEC

The Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club

Ellington Park Miniature Railway



Trains usually run on every other Sunday from the end of March until the summer school holidays, when trains usually run every Sunday until the end of September. Trains also run when special events are taking place in the park. Our operating hours are normally from 11:00-15:00 (Weather permitting!)

All train rides are just £1, cash & card payments accepted.

Exact operating dates, times & further details can be found by using the QR code or website address shown below.

New club members are always welcome!

Find us at
Ellington Park, Park Road,
Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9TL

www.radmec.co.uk

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
The Friends of Ellington Park CIO	1185399

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Community Events	5,301	-	-	5,301	1,097
Bookshop Sales	4,786	-	-	4,786	5,805
Subscriptions & Donations	249			249	
Friends Garden Bench Sponsorship	200			200	
TDC Community Lotto Fund - for Friends Garden	-	-	-	-	2,000
Other Income	10	-	-	10	146
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	10,546	-	-	10,546	9,048
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,546	-	-	10,546	9,048
A3 Payments					
Community Events	3,122	-	-	3,122	3,238
Professional Fees	1,843	-	-	1,843	540
Admin Costs (incl. website, printing and stationery)	1,792	-	-	1,792	1,221
Insurance	1,525	-	-	1,525	1,436
Wildlife Garden Expenses	1,070	-	-	1,070	93
Equipment	939	-	-	939	-
Activity Officer Fees		675	-	675	6,520
RTC Refund (grant not used)					2,626
Defibrillator Rental					456
Property Maintenance					336
Other Payments	701	-	-	701	140
Sub total	10,992	675	-	11,667	16,606
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Playground Equipment	-	-	-	-	3,336
Sub total	-	-	-	-	3,336
Total payments	10,992	675	-	11,667	19,942
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 446	- 675	-	- 1,121	- 10,894
A5 Transfers between funds	1,790	- 1,790	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	28,637	4,465	-	33,102	43,641
Cash funds this year end	29,981	2,000	-	31,981	32,747

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Balance: unrestricted and undesignated funds	20,281	-	-
	Bank Balance: designated funds - Friends Garden project	5,000	-	-
	Bank Balance: designated funds - Defib Rental over 5 years, Professional Fees, Insurance, RoSPA inspection, other	4,700		
	Bank Balance: restricted funds		2,000	
	Cash Held		-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	29,981 OK	2,000 OK	- OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	NIL	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	NIL		-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	NIL		-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	TDC Community Lotto Fund - Friends Garden	Restricted	2,000	
	Defibrillator Rental	Unrestricted	500	
	Website (hosting, maintenance, domain)	Unrestricted	432	
	TOTAL		2,932	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Stephen Yates	STEPHEN YATES	17/9/26
		REBECCA BULLIVANT	17/9/26