



Friends of Kett's Heights
Annual Report and Accounts
Registered Charity: 1191607

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1st January to 31st December 2022

Friends of Kett's Heights

Objectives and Activities, Achievements and Performance

The purpose of the charity is to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the historical and natural environment, and to encourage public use. The four-acre public open space is on the eastern side of Norwich city centre, owned by Norwich City Council.

Since the COVID pandemic we have resumed weekly practical activities with groups of volunteers at work on the site. As well as some clearance and new planting, last year we expanded the restoration of the hard-landscaping on the site, to include repairs to the chapel ruins and terrace walls. We benefitted by resources from the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) which has supplied training, materials and equipment. Using old kiln bricks found on site, we have built a new seating area at the viewpoint and a pathway constructed within the chapel ruins.

This area is also being developed as a sensory garden alongside the adjacent herb garden. One of our members, John Trevelyan, was invited to join a group to visit the Beth Chatto gardens where he learned about how drought-resistant plants can be cultivated. Given the frequency of drought during the summer months we will put this experience to good use when we develop our own trial plot of drought-resistant plants. In this context we are also working to help make our pond more resilient by raising the retaining banks to retain a larger volume of water. We continue to rely on volunteers to carry out regular litter picks and path sweeping to ensure the site remains attractive and welcoming.



Work in progress on the upper viewing area, new pathway and the sensory garden.



The newly completed seating area on the lower viewpoint. All construction materials were sourced locally from reclaimed bricks and coke oven linings.

Funding from the GNGB will provide funds for the City Council to improve access to the site. This will include improvements to the pedestrian access from Kett's Hill and disabled access from Ladbrooke Place. At the time of writing this is scheduled to begin in May/June 2023. We have been in regular contact with the council over details of the design and its impact on the landscape. There are also plans to open up the currently disused pathway from the southern slopes of Kett's Heights which would be accessible via William Kett Close. Much of this work which involves the installation of safety rails would be done by volunteers, but we expect the cost of materials to be covered by the same funding.

As in previous years, we took part in the Heritage Open Days in September and one of our members, Jane Chittenden, gave a presentation at St Matthew's Church on how gas had made wide-ranging changes to the City of Norwich during the 19th century.

After the presentation people were able to tour the site. Of course, Kett's Heights played a major role as the site of the city gasworks and coke plant and much of this heritage is still evident on the site.

Each year we run monthly tours of the site from April through to October which can be booked on our website. These are well attended and draw people from a wide area as far afield as the USA.



Visitors gather at the viewpoint in October on the last Sunday tour of the year.



A reception at St Matthew's Church with the Open Projects Network which was also attended by other community groups from across Norwich.

The Friends have a good relationship with St Matthew's Church which provides us with a venue for committee meetings and public events.

We have a thriving membership which includes 170 households who contribute £5 p.a. in return for which they receive a monthly newsletter keeping them informed and encouraging them to take part in our activities. The Trustees therefore consider that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Kett's Heights Layout



Key

- Boundary
- Paths - Surfaced
- Steps
- Retaining wall
- Steep slopes
- Seat
- Orchard
- St Michael's Chapel
- Beacon
- Main entrance
- Piggery
- Interpretation board
- Viewpoint panorama sign
- Remains of greenhouse

NORWICH City Council
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Drawing Title
Existing layout

Drawn: SLB Scale: 1:700 Date: Aug 17
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 Ordnance Survey 100019747.

Newly-elected Executive Committee members are provided with information about the charity, including its constitution, the Kett's Heights Management Plan and copies of the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees.

The charity's Executive Committee normally meets about every two months, and there is also a Publicity and Events Committee. As most committee members are also involved in activities such as practical works and helping with events there is a great deal of informal contact.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: Friends of Kett's Heights

Charity registration number: 1191607

Names of the Executive Committee who manage the charity:

Committee Member	Office (if any)
Jane Chittenden*	Secretary
Cavan Stewart*	Chair
Michael Button*	Treasurer
David Howarth*	Vice-Chair
Frank Meeres	
Paddy Adams	
Jane Chapman	
Claire Kidman	
Helen King	Retired March 2023

*trustees

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:



Full name: Cavan Stewart

Position: Chair

Date: 20 April 2023

Financial Review

The Charity's financial position continues to be robust, with a surplus of receipts over payments of £5760 and total assets of over £17,000. The significant risk of summer drought has been a major factor in our decision to pursue the idea of securing a mains water supply, and this will inevitably mean a large expenditure in the coming year. However, a generous grant from National Grid of £2500 will significantly offset the amount involved. This has been discussed at length within our Executive Committee and we are unanimously agreed that it is the correct course of action. All the charity's funds are held in unrestricted funds. The charity's principal sources of funds are subscriptions and donations from members. A summary of our accounts is available on page seven of this review.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Friends were founded as an organisation in November 2015 and started undertaking practical work, by agreement with the City Council, early in 2016. We work closely with the City Council and Norwich Fringe which administers a number of other open spaces across Norfolk. The Charity also belongs to the Outdoor Projects Network organised by the City Council.

We ask members each month to let us know how many hours they have spent volunteering for the Friends, and forward the totals to the City Council. The total for 2022 was 2395 hours, compared to 1875 hours in 2021, and 1249 in 2020. Around 30 of our members undertake volunteer activities.

The charity is an unincorporated association with a constitution last revised in August 2019. Trustees are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by and from the members and may be re-elected, save that the Chair cannot serve for more than three consecutive years.

Charity name: Friends of Kett's Heights

Receipts and payments accounts for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Section A Receipts and Payments	2022			2021
<i>Figures rounded to the nearest £</i>				
	£			£
Receipts				
Subscriptions		565		540
Donations		3171.85		3083
Gift Aid Recovery		780		714
Grants (National Grid)		2500		0
Plant sales				
TOTAL RECEIPTS		7103.07		4377
PAYMENTS				
<i>Recurring Items</i>				
Insurance	157			157
Website	157.78			0
Meeting Costs incl. Zoom	100.73			144
Regular Practical Work: plants & tools	526.97			157
Printing & stationery	222.63			29
Miscellaneous	24.32			
<i>Recurring items sub-total</i>		1189.43		487
<i>One-off projects</i>				
Picnic table				503
Information board replacement				72
Food booklets				105
Spring flowering bulbs	153.25			
<i>One-off projects sub-total</i>		153.25		680
TOTAL PAYMENTS	1342.68			1167
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of period				
Cash funds in hand	86.63			76
Cash funds at Bank	17119.27			11369
Total cash Funds	17205.90			11445

Signature: 

Full Name: Cavan Stewart

Position: Chair

Date: 20 April 2023