

FRIENDS OF BAILEY PARK

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30th SEPT 2025

BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2024

£ 5544.67

2025 INCOME

DONATION - FAMILY VOLUNTEERING 70.00*

" - " " 85.95

* - LIDO "CLOSURE" GROUP 3992.13 { +

" - ROTARY CLUB 1200.00 }

" - MCC (GWENT GARDEN GRID) 185.00

" - GAVENNY GARDEN CLUB 30.00

" - MEMBER OF PUBLIC 10.00

SUB TOTAL £ 6172.88.

BF (£ 5544.67) + 2025 INCOME (£ 6172.88)

TOTAL = £ 11,717.55

2025 EXPENDITURE

BULBS, PLANTS & COMPOST 2729.78

ELECTRIC WEEDEER 149.99

MISC. TOOLS & PAINT 103.94

* DONATION TO "HELP FOR KHARKIV" 70.00

VOLUNTEER EVENTS 278.80

F.O.B.P. BANNERS X 3 172.03

INSURANCE ANNUAL PREMIUM 140.46

BANK CHARGES 31.75

TOTAL = £ 3706.75

∴ £ 11,717.55 - £ 3706.75 = £ 8010.80

+ { LESS £ 5192.13 LIDO } = £ 2818.67 C/F TO 2026
(RINGFENCED MONEY)

Chair's Report 2024- 2025

The past year's successes have once again been quite remarkable, both for the town and for Bailey Park.

For the second time in two years we were invited to take part in the prestigious Britain in Bloom competition, and this can only be because of the town's steady but significant improvements over recent years, culminating in last year when we hosted the Wales in Bloom finals in the Angel Hotel, and Bailey Park was awarded a unique trio of certificates as champions of 'It's Your Neighbourhood.'

During the Autumn, we were helped by partners of volunteers to clear an immense number of leaves, and for that we are very grateful as it is a massively challenging undertaking.

This was followed daffodil and tulip planting in the main beds, many of the bulbs being donated by Monmouthshire County Council. A large amount of mulch was spread on the Sunken Garden and the Coronation Garden to break up the clay, help prevent weed growth, and prevent the rotting of bulbs in the heavy soil.

After a slow and cold start in the spring, with delay to summer planting, we were plunged into a prolonged drought which became a serious watering challenge.

In spite of repeated requests for help from the Town Council, this wasn't forthcoming, and this remains a problem for the future as we are faced with the challenges of climate change. Even hardy perennials were struggling to survive, and we began to discuss the possibility of rethinking the type of plants we should be growing in the future. Reading articles on this subject in gardening magazines, it is evidently becoming an area of widespread growing concern, needing considerable discussion and consideration.

We were pleased to be awarded the Green Flag Award once again, and next year we can expect a judge to visit us once again in late spring. Ian has agreed to fill in the appropriate paperwork by February.

The Wales in Bloom judge Peter Barton Price once again visited us in July, saying he was pleased to visit his favourite park garden once more. We achieved Level Five in the It's Your Neighbourhood awards yet again, and we agreed to re-enter next year. No application form from us was necessary this year as this will be dealt with by Town Council staff. Overall, Abergavenny won the Wales in Bloom Town category, with its fourth Gold award, at the finals ceremony held in Wrexham in September.

By the time the Britain in Bloom judges visited in August, it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain vibrancy and colour in the dehydrated flower

beds. Volunteers were spending many extra hours trying to keep beds watered, both from the stream using the hosepipe, and the tank that was filled several times in as many weeks, and it is clear we are facing a serious challenge in the future.

Two of us from Friends of Bailey Park attended the Britain in Bloom finals in Brighton last month, and the town was pleased to retain their Gold for the second time in this prestigious award. Competition was fierce, and Town category was won by Amersham, a very strong contender. The overall winners were a very deserving Southport.

We should all be proud of our hard work and dedication to our beloved gardens, and I would like to thank you all for your contribution over the past few months. We should also acknowledge the valuable work we do to support the local community through volunteering activities, and welcoming both the young and the old, those who just need to talk or seek advice, or simply come to enjoy the tranquility and beauty of our gardens.

Abergavenny Nursery children helped us to plant seeds, the Family Volunteering group planted seeds and bulbs, and we have enjoyed regular visits from residents of Pempergam House. We have liaised with several local groups in order to raise funds.

We have recently welcomed some new volunteers, and one of our aims for next year should be to campaign to increase these numbers to be able to confidently maintain our high standards in the future.

After receiving £4,000 from the closing Lido Group, we have almost doubled that amount through funding from Abergavenny Rotary Club and the town Council in order that revolutionary sensory Play Panels can be added to the existing playground, in order to help special needs and very young children. These should soon be in place and is being finalised the County Council. Another successful Picnic in the Park was enjoyed in August, and this now seems to be a firm fixture, thanks in part to suggestions made by FOBP three years ago. It also gives local organisations the opportunity to fund raise. We received £800 to spend on anything we required from the Abergavenny Garden Centre, courtesy of the Gwent Green Grid, and we are currently expecting £500 to put towards further murals along the backs of buildings in the park.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to have served as Chair for the past six years, I wish the new Chair a happy tenure, and all the Friends much enjoyment and success in the future.

1. **NAME:** The name of the group shall be Friends of Bailey Park
(Hereinafter referred to as the Group or FOBP)
2. **AIM:** To help maintain and improve the gardens.
3. **OBJECTIVES:** The Group will fulfil the aim by –
 - a) Working with appropriate local authorities and other parties.
 - b) Involving local people in improving the area.
 - c) Carrying out and promoting environmental and practical conservation.
 - d) Raising funds and receiving contributions to finance the Group.
 - e) Publicising and promoting the Group.
 - f) Opening bank accounts in the name of the Group.
 - g) Taking out insurance as appropriate.
 - h) Organising public and members meetings, training sessions and events.
 - i) Working with similar groups and exchanging information, advice, and experiences with them.
 - j) Being committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for volunteers and the public, free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.
 - k) Take such other action that is lawful and which the Steering Group consider necessary and appropriate to fulfil the aim and objectives.
4. **MEMBERSHIP:**
 - a) Membership of the Group shall be open to anyone who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its Aim and willing to abide by the Aim and Objectives of the Group.
 - b) Members will be encouraged to participate in work in the park where possible or otherwise to contribute in some other practical way to the objectives of the Group.
 - c) Only members who have contributed volunteer hours in the last two years shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings, Annual General Meetings, and Special Meetings.
 - d) A member may appoint in writing, and at least seven days prior to the meeting, a proxy to vote on their behalf.
 - e) The Steering Group shall have the power to refuse or withdraw membership where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aim and objectives of the Group. There shall be the right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.
 - f) Members must complete a membership application form which will be held by the Secretary.
5. **MANAGEMENT:**
 - a) The Group shall be administered by a Steering Group of four officers elected at the Group's Annual General Meeting. Steering Group members must be 18 years or older.
 - b) The Steering Group shall comprise four Officers being –
 - The Chairperson
 - The Vice-Chairperson
 - The Treasurer
 - The Secretary
 - c) The Steering Group shall meet at least quarterly.
 - d) At least three Steering Group members must be present for a Steering Group meeting to take place.
 - e) Voting at Steering Group meetings shall be by show of hands on a simple majority basis. In the event of a tied vote the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second vote.
 - f) In the event of a Steering Group member leaving the Group, the remaining members of the Steering Group shall have the power to co-opt an additional Steering Group member until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - g) The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Steering Group meetings, General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.
6. **FINANCE:**
 - a) The Group's financial year will end on 30th September each year.
 - b) All money and property donated to the Group must be used only for the Group's Aim and Objectives.

- c) The Treasurer must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts shall be available to any member of the Group on request within 14 days.
- d) The annual accounts should be examined by another Steering Group member who should confirm by countersigning them that they conform with the records and bank statements.
- e) Members cannot receive any salaries, fees, money, gifts or property from the Group, except by way of reimbursement for approved purchases on behalf of the Group and reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- f) All monies must be held in the Groups bank accounts with the exception of a petty cash float not to exceed £100.
- g) The Steering Group shall approve three Officers to be the authorised signatories on the Groups bank accounts. All payments and cheques must be approved by at least two of the three.
- h) The Treasurer will ensure that the Group remains solvent at all times.
- i) If considered appropriate the Group can approve at an AGM the payment of a membership subscription to the Group. Subscription rates can be varied by vote at an AGM.

7. GENERAL MEETING:

- a) There shall be monthly general meeting, the purpose of these meetings is for the members to hear and discuss and be involved in the activities of the Group.
- b) The Chairperson of the Group will normally chair these meetings; or the Vice-chairperson if the Chairperson is not available.
- c) At least fourteen days' notice of such a meeting must be given either in writing or by email, and appropriately publicised.
- d) The quorum for a General Meeting is six, including at least two Officers.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

- a) The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year sometime after 30th September and not more than fifteen months after the previous AGM.
- b) At least fourteen days' notice should be given to all members, either in writing or by email, and appropriately publicised.
- c) A quorum of at least six members, including two officers, is required for the AGM.
- d) Every member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be by majority vote of those present. In the event of a tied vote the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- e) The business of the AGM shall be –
 - Receiving a report from the Chairperson of the Group's activities over the year.
 - Receiving a report and annual accounts for the year from the Treasurer.
 - Election of officers.
 - If appropriate, to fix the membership subscription for the year.
 - If appropriate, to vote on any proposed amendment to the constitution.
- f) Members may nominate themselves or any other member, with their consent, to any position on the Steering Group up to seven days prior to the meeting in writing or by email to the Secretary.
- g) In the event of more nominations than vacancies each nominee will be asked to give a brief (five minutes maximum) outline of their suitability for the post. The Secretary will prepare voting slips for a secret ballot to take place.

9. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION:

- a) Proposals for amendments to the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The Steering Group shall decide if such a proposal is appropriate and that it should be included in the agenda of the next AGM.
- b) Voting at the AGM on alterations to the constitution shall be by two thirds of those members present and voting.

10. DISSOLUTION

- a) The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting.
- b) Any assets of the Group shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another local group with similar aims.

11. ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION:

This amended constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 17th November 2025.