FRIENDS OF RUSKIN PARK

AINJAL REPORT



Our first report as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)



WELCOME

The Friends of Ruskin Park (FoRP) has been operating as a community group since 1996. A new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) was registered in April 2016 and our activities transferred to this new legal entity on 1st September 2016.



This annual report relates to the new charity's first accounting year, from 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2017.

FoRP's registered address at the time of publication is:

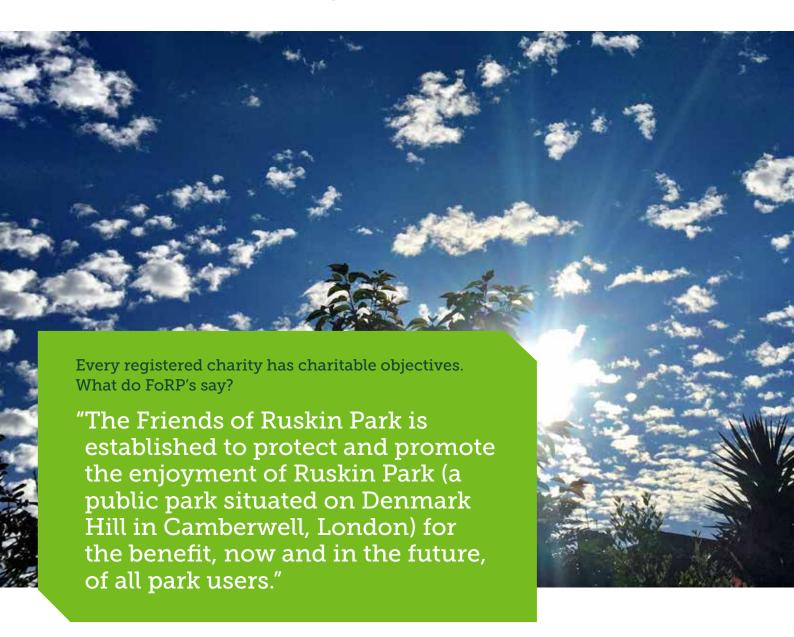
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If you need to contact us please email info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

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OUR OBJECTIVES AND AIMS



To put these into practice, the FoRP trustees have stated the following **aims**:

- To work collaboratively with the park's landlord, Lambeth Council, and its tenants, to help their management to maximise all aspects of the quality of Ruskin Park, as desired by park users and within available resources.
- To engage park users and the wider community in maintaining and improving the park for their own health and wellbeing, for now and in the future, and balancing their different interests.
- To run, sponsor or support specific desired events and activities for and with park users, and capital projects for improvement of physical assets, that would not otherwise happen.
- To ensure we have the resources to achieve the above aims financial, people, communications and governance.

This has been a busy year for Ruskin Park and for FoRP. We can be proud of our achievements in our first year as a registered charity, made possible by many committed volunteers and successful partnerships. The following are some of the highlights.



In line with other local authority services, public parks in the UK continue to operate in an extremely challenging financial setting.

As reported last year, Lambeth Council has shifted its approach to parks management several times in recent years. Despite periods of uncertainty, FoRP has always maintained good and constructive relationships with council officers and elected members. This is in no small part due to the efforts of our outgoing chair David Whyte

Lambeth Landscapes now manages and maintains parks fully 'in house' for Lambeth Council. We have noticed improvements in park upkeep this year.

It is becoming easier to work more closely with officers in this team to respond to issues in the park as they arise, such as problems with litter, repairs and regular maintenance.

Litter is a perennial parks' bug-bear. This year, an early warm summer meant an increase over the usual amounts and revealed some inadequacies of the collection arrangements. Thanks to efforts all round, notably the friendly anti-litter posters designed by James Jervis and installed by David Whyte, the litter picking volunteers (more below) and some improved practices by Lambeth Landscapes, the litter crisis lessened by the end of the summer, though we must never be complacent.

Despite the challenging context, we are proud that Ruskin Park once again retained Green Flag status in 2017.

2. We worked to make the case for long term investment in Ruskin Park

FoRP continues to make the case for a more strategic approach to the future of Ruskin Park, both supporting individual projects and calling for an overarching masterplan.

Our events continue to be highly successful, bringing park users and the wider community together

The Ruskin Park Summer Fete took place on Saturday 24th June 2017. This very successful event is well attended each year and is made possible by a committed working group, with about 15 additional volunteers on the day.

While the Fete primarily aims to bring the local community together, it is also a key fundraising activity for the charity to deliver its priorities. This year the Fete raised in excess of £1,800 after expenditure on the event.

The annual summer concert series at the Bandstand continued to be a success, though attendance numbers were slightly down at 89 per concert on average. This was perhaps due to poor weather and a decision not to hold concerts in August. 10 concerts took place across June, July and September. While Lambeth Council generously provide £250

We believe Ruskin Park does not receive the overall level of investment it merits for its historical importance, size and visitor numbers.

We were pleased to support the refurbishment of the Portico, where Lambeth Council attracted funding from Historic England and Heritage Trust for London. It should be completed in early 2018.

The park has a fine arboricultural heritage. A group of volunteers has recently formed a tree group for Ruskin Park, who are starting to identify and map all the trees in the park, building on records already held. This vital information will not only inform park users about 'the arboretum of Lambeth' but will provide the basis to attract funding for future planting and maintenance, including work in partnership with Trees for Cities.

funding for the band at each concert, they rely largely on the efforts of volunteers, for which we are very grateful.

The annual FoRP Photography Competition is also a highlight of the year and part of the Camberwell Arts Festival. The two themes were: 'What is this life if, full of care, we take no time to stand and stare' and 'Colour' for the under 16s. The winning entries were exhibited at Camberwell Library from 11th June to 9th July and can still be found on our Facebook page.

The annual Bat Walk was once again successfully delivered (in a voluntary capacity) by Lambeth Council officer Dr Iain Boulton. This year we have also expanded our programme of walks as part of our efforts to increase involvement in activities in the park. This has included a plant folklore walk led by Roy Vickery (from the Natural History Museum and South London Botanical Institute) and we have plans for a series of 'mindful walks' in the autumn and winter.

4 We secured support from the Lambeth Community Fund to help deliver our vision of a 'health and wellbeing park'

In March 2017 we received a grant of £10,000 from the Lambeth Community Fund. We are very grateful to Donna Yay and the team at the London Community Foundation (who administer the fund) for all their support throughout the year.

The funding allows us to hold 'strategy sessions' for our trustees with an external facilitator, focusing on developing our overall priorities and plans.

Most of the funding has been used to engage Charlotte O'Connor to act as a freelance development worker for FoRP, to help us build our capacity and increase activities through

5 FoRP volunteers raised funding and kept the paddling pool open in Ruskin Park for the second year running

FoRP took responsibility for running the paddling pool in Ruskin Park from summer 2016 after Lambeth Council announced it would otherwise close. This is a much loved and well used facility for local families.

Andrew Makower once again acted as 'responsible person' for the paddling pool

community development and volunteering. Charlotte has worked with FoRP trustees and other volunteers to help get a number of new activities off the ground and support the development of volunteer-led groups.

This has included the establishment of a weekly litter picking group and a new gardening club. We are working with our friends at Trees for Cities to align our activities with their successful corporate volunteering days in Ruskin Park.

We are also offering free taster tennis sessions for adults (with the aim of establishing a 'social tennis' group) and an expanded programme of guided walks.

We have also been developing the wheat growing project in Ruskin Park, which started two years ago and has been led by David Whyte and Andy Forbes with support from others including Lambeth Council.

The London Community Foundation



in 2017, supported by a great team of other volunteers. Suzanne Vincent has agreed to take on this role in 2018. The paddling pool is operated by FoRP under a Letter of Understanding from Lambeth Council. We commission the National Pool Company to commission and decommission the pool.

Our volunteers painted the pool in May. Then during the 15 weeks the pool is open they carried out daily inspection, servicing and cleaning, drained and cleaned the pool 8 times. We are grateful for help and support from the Ruskin Park Cafe.

Most of the funding for the paddling pool has come from a 'crowdfunding' campaign in 2016, which raised more than £12,000. Urban Village estate agents have also been a key partner and sponsor in both years. We expect to seek more funding in 2018 to cover costs for the next two years.



The Stable Block in the southeast corner of the park, near Denmark Hill, is derelict and hidden behind undergrowth and bushes.

FoRP believe this heritage building should be brought into use as a community asset. Our long term aim is that it will be at the heart of a community business, supporting FoRP's vision for Ruskin Park as a hub for health and wellbeing. We want the stable block to become a café and entertainment space, a new facility for regular park users and visitors, and a hub for the local community, with flexible spaces that can be used by different groups for meetings and activities a venue for arts, wellbeing and therapeutic activities.

In 2016 FoRP were given funding by the Power to Change "Bright Ideas Fund" to help bring the Stable Block back into use. This has helped us understand local needs and potential uses, consult community organisations, and develop our ideas for the design, working with Brixton-based architects Carver Haggard.

We have been meeting with Lambeth Council to persuade them to support this vision. If we can bring these buildings into use, it can bring new services into the park that benefit vulnerable people, help us all flourish and thrive, support other activities in the park and provide new meeting and networking spaces for local groups. We may also be able to leverage our charitable status to raise capital funding for renovation, and revenue funding for activities that reach the whole community.

We realise the Stable Block is a precious public asset and any plans for its future need to be financially sustainable.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



Governance

FoRP is governed by a CIO constitution adopted in March 2016 and approved by the Charity Commission in April 2016. This can be viewed on our website at www. friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

Membership

FoRP membership is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, though the trustees are able to set a reasonable fee for membership. They agreed in June 2017 to set the membership fee at zero.

As of 1st November 2017 FoRP has 261 recorded members. This includes all those recorded on 'household' memberships prior to our current constitution. We have recently introduced a new membership database and expect some 'cleaning' of the membership data in the next year. However, in general the trend is towards increased membership since the removal of the fee. This is also resulting in increased donations from members.

Trustees

We have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 11 trustees. They are elected at our AGM for 3 year terms, with a third of trustees standing down each year. At other times the existing trustees may appoint further trustees until the date of the next AGM.

The following people were trustees for all or some of the period from 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2017:

- David Whyte (Chair until October 2017, standing down at AGM)
- Lucy Hadfield (Appointed December 2016, Chair from October 2017)
- Chris Norris (Vice Chair from October 2017)
- Bridget Stutt (Treasurer until October 2017, standing down at AGM)
- David Benson (Appointed July 2017, Treasurer from October 2017)
- Nicola Bacon
- Nicholas Edwards
- Vicki Badham (Standing down at AGM)
- Jon Bennett (Standing down at AGM)
- Genevieve Maitland Hudson (Resigned July 2017)

THANK YOU TO OUR TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS



David Whyte deserves a special mention and thanks, as he is standing down as chair and trustee. He has made an exceptional contribution to FoRP. As chair, he has been instrumental in making FoRP a successful community organisation and driving a passion for the park with our varied stakeholders. He has also pioneered countless projects as a practical volunteer, such as wheat growing and the photography competition. He will continue to volunteer, including as part of the tree group.

Bridget Stutt and Vicki Badham are standing down as trustees but continue to be active volunteers and supporters of the charity across many areas of our work.

Andrew Makower who has acted as 'responsible person' and a lead volunteer for the Paddling Pool and the Summer Concerts at the Bandstand

Julie Simpson, who has led the Summer Fete for a number of years, supported by the events working group including Jessica Owen, Natalie Redston and Bridget Stutt.

Natalie Redston, while not a trustee, acts as an additional committee member and minute taker for trustee meetings

Sharon Moloney from Making Music, who arranges the programme for the Summer Concerts each year, and Chris and Toni who run the refreshments stall each week during the series.

The Paddling Pool working group and volunteers, including Suzanne Vincent, Chloe Gardner, Erica Walker, Richard Simmons and Bundy Boase, with great support from Magda and Gaia at the Ruskin Park Cafe.

Russell Wilson for his invaluable and regular pro bono graphic design services.

James Jarvis for creating a poster campaign to reduce litter in the park.

Dr Iain Boulton, who among other things leads the hugely popular 'Bat Walks' each year.

Any many more, whether they are litter pickers, events stewards, cake bakers, paddling pool painters and cleaners, community gardeners, or just lending a hand informally.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This was the first year where FoRP operated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") and it has been a great success. The operations and the funds from the original FoRP unincorporated association were successfully transferred to the new CIO on 1 September 2016 following its establishment on 5 April 2016.

Highlights

	Unrestricted fund	Res		
	General fund	Grants fund	Paddling Pool fund	Total
Income	7,002	25,910	3,786	36,698
Expenses	(5,987)	(8,297)	(3,685)	(17,969)
Retained				
profit	1,015	17,613	101	18,729
Reserves	15,065	17,910	4,303	37,278

In the year the FoRP has received two significant new grants, one from the London Community Foundation and one from Power to Change. Due to this we have set up a new restricted income fund called the Grants fund, this is where we will recognise restricted grants from third parties (so far the London Community Foundation, Power to Change and Lambeth Council Bandstand Concert funding). We have recognised the income from both of these in the period to August 2017, however we have not yet spent it all. This was in line with the plans at the time of the grants being received as these are longer term projects to improve community involvement in the park and to develop the stable block. We are budgeted to spend the remaining funds from these grants in the year to August 2018 in line with the terms of the grants.

The Paddling Pool fund has continues to be our other restricted fund, with all money being raised for this facility being spent on the pool. In the period to August the expenses for the pool matched the funds raised.

The General fund is unrestricted and is used for all the other projects that FoRP runs throughout the year. The main income from this comes from the Summer Fete and donations from members. In the current period we made a small profit in the year.

Overall FoRP goes into the 2017/2018 year in a strong position to be able to take forward the priorities outlined later in this report.

The full Financial Statements can be found at the end of this report.

TRUSTEES' PRIORITIES FOR 2017/18



Following a 'strategy day' for trustees, we are committed to keep continuity for most of our valued activities, despite retirements of key personnel. Our first challenge is to build up the committed trustee and lead volunteer team again to ensure we have capacity and capability to give continuity and hopefully to take on some new projects.

There will always be a gap between what we would like to achieve and what is possible for a small charity. Whilst we must be open to respond to unexpected events, we intend to focus on the following main priorities for 2017/18, and review our progress in a year's time:

- Aim to recruit two or three more trustees and/or lead volunteers, in particular to cover areas such as events, horticulture, sports and fitness, and communications:
- Continue to enhance our communications, and processes for membership and volunteer management;
- Progress the Stable Block project, working closely with Lambeth Council;
- Keep the Paddling Pool open safely next summer;
- Ensure delivery of a successful 2018 summer events programme the Summer Fete and Bandstand concerts at a minimum;
- Develop financial and stakeholder engagement plans;

- Monitor Lambeth Landscapes operational and repairs plan and delivery in Ruskin Park, and Lambeth Council's management of sports activities;
- Find the best ways to implement park users' priority projects to maintain and improve the park. Our long list includes: bandstand repairs, skatepark repairs, horticultural areas, creating a tree plan, gates, notice boards, exercise stations, benches, fencing, toilets;
- To continue to implement a range of health, wellbeing and volunteering activities, including existing commitments in our grant from the Lambeth Community Fund;
- To plan to bring successful the activities funded from grants into 'core business' so they will be sustainable;
- To work with Lambeth and UK Power Networks to minimise disruption during major electricity cable renewal across the park and to implement a gate renewal project on Denmark Hill.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Trustee's responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Charities Act (2011) and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing the 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 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may

Lucy Hadfield Chair	David Benson Treasurer
Date:	Date:
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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For period ended 31 August 2017

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			
	Note	General	Grants funds *	Paddling Pool funds	Total	
Income						
Grants and donations	3	2,055	25,910	3,786	31,751	
Events Other income	3	4,297 650	-	-	4,297 650	
Other meonie				<u>-</u>		
Total income		7,002	25,910	3,786	36,698	
Expenses						
Charitable activities	4	(4,713)	(8,297)	(3,685)	(16,442)	
Other costs	4	(1,274)	-	-	(1,527)	
Total expenses		(5,987)	(8,297)	(3,685)	(17,969)	
Net income for the period		1,015	17,613	101	18,729	
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds transferred on establishment of CIO		14,550	(203)	4,202	18,549	
Net income for the period Transfer in reserves		1,015 (500)	17,613 500	101 -	18,729	
Total funds carried forward		15,065	17,910	4,303	37,278	

^{* -} the Grants funds is made of grants and expenses from the London Community Foundation, Power to Change and Lambeth Council for bandstand concerts.

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 August 2017

	Note	
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	7	2017 2,555 39,182
Total current assets		41,737
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,459)
Net assets		37,278
Funds of the charity Unrestricted income funds General fund		15,065
Restricted income funds Grants fund Paddling Pool fund		17,910 4,303
Total charity funds		37,278

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the Charities Act 2011. The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit in accordance with the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the

Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Lucy Hadfield Chair	David Benson Treasurer
Date:	Date:

NOTES

(forming part of the financial statements)

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and in accordance with the FRS 102 itself and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee's have taken advantage of the exemptions permitted by SORP (FRS 102) and have not included a statement of cash flows for the year.

As this is the first year of trading as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation there are no prior year comparative results. The charity was established on 5 April 2016. The trade and funds were transferred from the Friends of Ruskin Park association to the new Charity on 1 September 2016 at book value.

Income policy

Items of income are recognised and include in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be reliably measured.

Donations, voluntary income and grants are recognised in the period they are received where the above conditions have been met (expect for grants that specify that they can only be used in a future accounting period).

Volunteers

SORP (FRS 102) specifically excludes the inclusion of the value of the contributions of volunteers to the charity on the basis that there is no reliable method of measurement of their activities. As a result the value of services provided by volunteers is not included in the financial statements. The valuable contribution provided by the volunteers is discussed in more detail in the Trustees Report.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities operations.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the operation of the Charity. These include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities.

Other costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

VAT suffered is included within the relative expenses or asset and is not shown separately.

2. Legal status

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and has no share capital. If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for setting its debts and liabilities.

The Charity was registered on 5 April 2016 under registration number 1166358. Accordingly the Charity is exempt from the Corporation Tax in respect to its charitable activities and any investment income receivable.

NOTES

(Continued)

3. Income

	General	Grants funds	Paddling Pool funds	Total
Income				
Grants London Community Foundation grant	-	10,000	-	10,000
Power to Change grant Bandstand concerts grant	-	14,160 1,750	-	14,160 1,750
Donations Paddling pool donations Other donations and subscriptions	2,055	-	3,786	3,786 2,055
Grants and donations	2,055	25,910	3,786	31,751

All events income related to the 2017 Summer Fete.

4. Expenses

	General	Grants funds	Paddling Pool funds	Total
Expenses				
Charitable activities				
Stable block expenses	-	2,728	-	2,475
Freelance development worker	-	2,800	-	2,800
Freelance development worker	-	425	-	425
expenses				
Paddling pool costs	-	-	3,685	3,685
Bandstand concert expenses	-	2,250	-	2,250
New storage facility	1,998	-	-	1,998
Fete expenses	2,663	-	-	2,663
Photography competition	52	-	-	52
Wheat growing project	-	70	-	70
Litter picking	-	24	-	24
	- 			
Total	4,713	8,297	3,685	16,442
Other costs				
Insurance	253	-	-	253
Sundries	842	-	-	842
AGM	179	-	-	179
Total	1,274	-	-	1,274
Total expenses	5,987	8,297	3,685	17,969

NOTES

(Continued)

5. Staff Costs

The Charity had no staff costs in the year and none of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind for their work on the Charity.

6. Tax

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

7. Debtors

All amounts are accounts receivable and are expected to be recoverable.

8. Creditors

All creditors relate to accrued expenses.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Ruskin Park

I report on the accounts of Friends of Ruskin Park for the period ending 31st August 2017.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees 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 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- 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 Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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

- 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Boyd ACA