

# 2022 AGM Report Highlights

## 1. Chair's report

Firstly, I'd like to thank all the Committee members for their great contributions. We get through an enormous amount of work together.

I'd like to single out Bob Hughes for our warmest thanks for his service to us as Secretary. He had intended to step down at this AGM in any case, but in fact had to go slightly earlier than expected owing to ill health. Bob has been great at getting the business done, and fielding queries from all around.

Thanks are also due to Jerry Trenchard for taking over as Secretary at short notice, and for getting all the notices and reports out ahead of today's meeting.

As you see, we have nominations for committee officers coming up later in the agenda, and we have, for the first time, a nomination for a vice-chair. All the committee are willing to serve for another year, and I'm very grateful for that.

You will see from the various reports that, as I mentioned earlier, we have achieved a lot this year. There are one or two items that have not been included in other reports, and although small, have contributed to the well-being of the Bear Flat neighbourhood.

The anti-engine idling posters have made a difference, and drivers are more aware of the need to turn engines off when parked or stationary (it has also eased the life of those concerned citizens who tap on drivers' windows to remind them to turn their engines off!).

Have you noticed that the time-lag for the lights at the pedestrian crossing has been reduced?

Also, writing as a foodbank collector for the Genesis Trust, I have been pleased to see that now the Co-op has placed the collection box in a more obvious location donations have risen – please help to keep up the momentum in this difficult time.

The other warm thanks, and congratulations, must go to our three local green spaces groups, Friends of Bloomfield Green, Friends of Alexandra Park, and Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields.

There will be more good stuff coming up in the year ahead. Thank you all for your support, and please encourage your neighbours to join the BFA if they are not already in membership.

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## 2. Treasurer's report

THE BEAR FLAT ASSOCIATION		2022		Prior year 2021	
Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ending 30th September 2022					
Income - Membership Fees		£1,860.00		£1,800.00	
Income - Donations		£280.00		£200.01	
Income - Advertising		£250.00		£250.00	
Income - Hire of marquee		£115.00			
Angus Buchanan Memorial Fund				£145.00	
Income - Events	Revenue	£575.00			
	Expenses	£(196.00)	£379.00		
Income - Bloomfield Green play equipment				£500.00	
Total Income			£2,884.00		£2,895.01

Expenditure -	Printing costs	£(53.09)			
	Hall and equipment hire for meetings			£(103.59)	
	Mikron Theatre on allotments	£(99.60)		£(256.00)	
	Friends of Bloomfield Green expenses	£(170.58)		£(35.40)	
	Zoom costs	£(143.89)		£(103.59)	
	Membership software	£(75.00)		£(75.00)	
	Website hosting	£(105.01)		£(103.81)	
	FOIRA membership	£(25.00)		£(75.00)	
	Insurance	£(100.80)		£(100.80)	
	Production of images of Bear Flat	£(150.00)			
	Membership of Bath Preservation Trust	£(35.00)			
	Grant to Widcombe Association for subway artwork			£(500.00)	
	Grant to Friends of Lyncombe Fields			£(200.00)	
	Grant to Bear Flat Environment			£(250.00)	
	Costs of equipment for Playing Out			£(215.40)	
	Covid-19 helpline costs			£(43.65)	
	PayPal fees	£(154.14)			
	Other expenses	£(80.96)		£(21.86)	
		£(1,193.07)		£(2,084.10)	
Surplus of Income over Expenditure			£1,690.93		£810.91

Balance Sheet at 30th September		2022		2021	
Balance at Cooperative Bank		£7,294.26		£4,896.14	
Balance in Paypal a/c		£88.04		£514.15	
less Accrued Expenses		£(15.00)		£(478.92)	
less Membership Fees paid in advance		£(1,345.00)		£(600.00)	
Net Assets		£6,022.30		£4,331.37	
Surplus funds brought forward			£4,331.37		£3,520.46
Surplus (deficit) of Income over Expenditure for year			£1,690.93		£810.91
Surplus funds carried forward (see Note)			£6,022.30		£4,331.37

Breakdown of Funds	Angus Buchanan Memorial Fund	Don Grimes Memorial Fund	Bath In Bloom Fund	Bloomfield Green Play Equipment	General Funds	TOTAL
Brought forward at 1st October 2021	£145.00	£1,290.46	£200.00	£1,000.00	£1,695.91	£4,331.37
Income in the year				£0.00	£2,884.00	£2,884.00
Expenses in the year			£(170.58)		£(1,022.49)	£(1,193.07)
Carried forward at 30th September 2022	£145.00	£1,290.46	£29.42	£1,000.00	£3,557.42	£6,022.30

### Treasurer's Report for the year ending 30th September 2022

The main income for the Association are membership subscriptions which have increased to £1,860 thanks to increasing numbers of households joining the Association during the pandemic. We also made a healthy surplus of £379 from the Gathering On The Green event in June. Total income was very much in line with the previous year at £2,884.

Our expenditure in the year was significantly down on the previous year, which contained a number of grants to various local bodies. As a result we recorded a surplus of £1,690 for the year.

At 30th September 2022 we had a total bank balance of £7,294, which is held in accounts with the Cooperative Bank, as well as £88 in our Paypal account.

Our funds (or reserves) at 30th September 2022 totalled £6,002, of which the amounts shown above are designated for the Don Grimes Memorial Fund, Bath In Bloom and Play Equipment, which all relate to Bloomfield Green and the Angus Buchanan Memorial Fund. The General Funds that are not designated for any specific purpose amount to £3,557.

For any queries please contact me at markrichardson.home@yahoo.co.uk  
 Mark Richardson, ACA  
 2nd October 2022  
 Treasurer

# 2022 AGM Report Highlights

## 3. Planning & Transport

Helping to save Snowy, our iconic polar bear on The Bear Inn.

We added our voice to those opposing a big increase in housing on the plateau south of Bath, because it would generate more traffic through Bear Flat.

Beechen Cliff School have revised their School Travel Plan. We're working with the school to make it more effective in promoting greener travel.

We continue to press for better enforcement of parking restrictions, as over-stays mean fewer spaces for residents and people visiting shops.

We have pressed for better information about the no4 local bus inside the Bus Station and at the Broad Quay bus stop.

Progressing our Vision for Bear Flat Centre

We are currently awaiting news of two funding bids under the B&NES Liveable Neighbourhoods programme: for Bloomfield Road, and Hayes Place.

The Council is to plant more trees this winter in the Poets Avenues, including new sites suggested by us.

## 4. Membership

We have now entered our new "membership" year (starts 1<sup>st</sup> October) and have had a good take up in terms of "early renewals"

Active Memberships: 437

Expired Memberships: 58

Most of the payments are now by Paypal

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## 5. Food & Social

Resuming the Community Market and Café was important to us because the small surplus makes the free Community Tea Party possible. Over the course of the year, donations from guests came to £320 for Julian House

Carols by Torchlight; the collection raised £150 for Médecins sans Frontières

Cappella Nova put on a charity concert at St Luke's Church, Wellsway, which raised £690 for local charity Voices for Life, of which over £80 came from the cash bar which we ran

Our refreshment stall was back at Bloomfield's Gathering on the Green enabling us to donate £125 to the Friends of Bloomfield Green

We ran another successful refreshment stall, this time at Mikron Theatre on the Bloomfield Allotments.

We designed the banners for the local 'No idling' campaign – there is one banner outside Beechen Cliff School, one near Majestic Wine and one on the refuge at The Gore.

### Looking ahead

A special all-day Christmas Market on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November – the date chosen so as not to clash with Bear Flat Artists or Widcombe Artists.

We expect to cater for Carols by Torchlight one Friday before Christmas – no date yet.

## 6. Friends of Bloomfield Green

For the first time since June 2019, we were able to stage events on the Green.

We planted over 100 trees, with new trees at the bottom to establish a bigger woodland area, and at the top to infill existing lines of trees.

We had our first Gathering on the Green for three years, and it was a great success. 2023's Gathering will be on Sunday 11 June, but we will wait till we get through the winter before announcing any other events.

Again, winning a Green Flag Award, assessed as "Thriving" in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood competition. This is the second highest grade, and one grade up from "Advancing", which we achieved at our first attempt last year.

Plant a tree in Feb 2023 to mark the centenary of the Bath City Council buying agricultural land that now makes up the Green and the Bloomfield Allotments.

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## 7. Friends of Alexandra Park

Retaining Green Flag status.

Extending our annual wildflower spring sowing to three plots within the park.

We now have our own shed for storing tools and equipment so that we can pick litter, clear, and brush the viewing areas and the traffic chicanes that can get clogged with leaves and debris.

The hundred plus Whips we planted about 18 months ago are now maturing

Sharing bird box information with RSPB, helping us to better understand their habitat requirements

Improved curbing to the edge of the roadway, helping prevent further erosion.

Refreshment of the 10mph maximum speed signs

A dedicated electricity supply has been installed

Return of Picnic in the Park in 2023