



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES'S PARK  
& THE GREEN PARK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

We celebrated the start of the 2019-2020 year with The South Westminster Community Choir who entertained members and invited guests at the Christmas Party, with a recital of carols and a lively brass accompaniment. In January and February, the society launched the first two in a series of four short talks in the Archives on the subject of Christchurch Gardens and Ignatius Sancho, the polymath African buried in Christchurch Gardens. Our corporate partner the Blue Orchid Hotel Group/Integrity International supported this innovative programme and also allocated professional staff to begin the development of a new website and database for the Society.

The Spring/Summer Newsletter was produced and mailed in March but our diary of scheduled visits and walks was abruptly curtailed by Covid-19 and the lockdown which affected so many aspects of all our lives. We took the decision to defer the visits to 2021 and to set-up a skeleton series of virtual-educational talks for members to enjoy. The committee learned a great deal from this experience and we are grateful for the time and expertise of our contributors, all of whom are members of the Society. The support, encouragement and understanding of members sustained the committee during this period. One of the disappointments of the year was the cancellation of our T@35 birthday celebrations in St James's Park and the Cinnamon Club.

As part of the Society's planning role, we contributed to Westminster City Council's deliberations of a policy to retain or remove statues as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement and going forward we will be consulted as part of The Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. The Society initiated a planning group/hub comprising the amenity/resident groups in the south Westminster area and responded to over 60 planning applications including major building developments. We supported the Judicial Review taken by The London Parks Trust against the Government over the fact that the decision on the Planning Inquiry will be made by a member of the very Government that has promised to build the Holocaust Memorial come what may. The 5-week Planning Inquiry started in October with The Thorney Island Society as 'an interested party' opposing the application.

Our accounts for 2019-2020 reflect a significant shortfall in unrestricted income as a result of Covid-19. The coming year will be a challenge to maintain our financial position and focus on our delayed priorities. Our Treasurer, Gordon Slater retires this year after 15 years in the role and attendance at nearly every Thorney Island dinner, visit, party, sorting in the archives and envelope-stuffing since then! We are most encouraged by the nomination to the Committee of two new local residents in the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Sue Ball  
Chair

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**  
Registered Charity No 1000751  
**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2019-20**

I am pleased to report that the Society had a successful financial year in 2019-20 despite the extraordinary circumstances, recording a surplus of £1,503 on our ordinary activities. Regrettably, many of our planned activities including our 35th birthday party had to be cancelled, so we are especially grateful for the loyalty of our members at this time. On the expenditure side, we were able to further reduce postage and printing costs through greater use of email, though we are pleased with the quality of the bi-annual newsletter. We again thank Blue Orchid Hotels for their generous hospitality at our parties and AGM.

These figures are dwarfed by the further amount of £108,000 raised in support of the Save Victoria Tower Gardens campaign, which was used at the request of the organising group to obtain professional advice on the planning application, and will be used for legal representation at the forthcoming inquiry. We are also very pleased to receive a special grant of £2,600 from Integrity International for various development projects.

We are grateful to Gwyndaf John for acting as independent examiner in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This is my 16th and last report as Treasurer; I am delighted to be handing over to Robert Timms, and wish him and the Society every success in the coming years.

Gordon Slater - Treasurer

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted income funds</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2019	20,066.18		20,066.18	18,791.63
Add net (deficit)/surplus for the year	1,502.93		1,502.93	1,274.55
Balance at 30 September 2020	21,569.11		21,569.11	20,066.18
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2019		9,551.25	9,551.25	557.88
Add net surplus/(deficit) for the year - purse				(557.88)
-Victoria Tower Gardens		70,501.26	70,501.26	9,551.25
- Integrity International		1,975.00	1,975.00	
Balance at 30 September 2020		82,027.51	82,027.51	9,551.25
(VTG £80,052.51; Integrity £1,975.00)				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	21,569.11	82,027.51	103,596.62	29,617.43
<b>Represented by</b>				
Lloyds Bank Accounts				
Instant Savings 07214020	627.10		627.10	436.82
Treasurer's Account 00355214	12,695.13	82,027.51	94,722.64	25,027.17
Old Pye St Account 00287456	834.96		834.96	500.68
Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities	8,911.92		8,911.92	8,849.61
Sundry creditors	(1,500.00)		(1,500.00)	(5,196.85)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	21,569.11	82,027.51	103,596.62	29,617.43

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No 1000751

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership fees	3,484.00		3,484.00	3,870.00
Visits - net surplus	678.68		678.68	2,390.05
Christmas drinks party - net surplus	191.29		191.29	383.98
Summer drinks party - net surplus			0.00	403.75
Bank interest	62.59		62.59	59.31
Christmas raffle - net surplus	606.88		606.88	541.82
Donations - general	952.43		952.43	142.01
Donations - for 18th century purse			0.00	380.00
Donations & gift aid - Save VTG campaign		108,497.26	108,497.26	57,438.75
Donation - Integrity International		2,600.00	2,600.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,975.87</b>	<b>111,097.26</b>	<b>117,073.13</b>	<b>65,609.67</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Civic society insurance	283.33		283.33	283.33
Printing, postage, stationery	930.58		930.58	1,272.64
Membership of other societies	46.00		46.00	46.00
AGM expenses			0.00	0.00
Books and materials for archives	87.75		87.75	53.32
Miscellaneous expenses	430.70		430.70	1,182.31
Website	28.86		28.86	380.94
Restricted expenditure - 18th century purse			0.00	1,296.98
Restricted expenditure - Save VTG		37,996.00	37,996.00	47,887.50
Restricted expenditure - Integrity		625.00	625.00	
Expenses re Old Pye Street	2,665.72		2,665.72	2,938.73
Rent	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Electricity	117.39		117.39	261.33
Business rates	456.00		456.00	469.00
Water	92.33		92.33	208.40
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,472.94</b>	<b>38,621.00</b>	<b>43,093.94</b>	<b>55,341.75</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,502.93</b>	<b>72,476.26</b>	<b>73,979.19</b>	<b>10,267.92</b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY (Registered Charity No 1000751)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Thorney Island Society (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2020.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Gwyndaf Edward John

Address: Msasa, 40 Beech Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8BL

Date: 28 March 2021