Friends of Wanstead Parklands

Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

The Trustees of Friends of Wanstead Parklands present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025. Friends of Wanstead Parklands registered as a CIO on 6th June 2016.

Charity details

Registered charity number: 1167459

Trustees:

The trustees who manage Friends of Wanstead Parklands are as follows:

Trustee	Office	First Appointed	Last Re-appointed	Resigned
Simon Skelding	Treasurer	29-Mar-17	15-Apr-26	
Gill James	Secretary	29-Mar-17	15-Apr-26	
Peter Brimson	Chair	29-Mar-17	15-Apr-26	
John Sharpe		29-Mar-17	15-Apr-26	
Adrian Russell		10-Jun-21		15-Apr-26
Lucy Dawes		22-Feb-24	15-Apr-26	

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 6 June 2016.

Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the annual general meeting held between February and April.

Objects of the charity:

- To promote the use of Wanstead Park for the benefit of the inhabitants of the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Newham and Waltham Forest, their surrounding areas and the wider public at large;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities or opportunities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life, in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Wanstead Parklands;
- To promote for the benefit of the general public the conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Wanstead Parklands, especially its features of historic, architectural and wildlife interest;
- To advance public education in the character, archaeology and history of Wanstead Parklands.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects, and the key achievements of the charity, during the year:

Campaigning

During 2025 the Friends of Wanstead Parklands continued to campaign for investment in the restoration and management of Wanstead Parklands, and continues to work constructively both with the City of London Corporation ("CofL"), which manages most of the land that makes up the Wanstead Parklands, and with Epping Forest ("EF").

The Friends continue to represent park users as active members of the Wanstead Park Steering Group and the Wanstead Park Stakeholder Group. These forums provide an opportunity for the Friends to advocate priorities for the park, informed by regular surveys conducted of members, and the Friends continue to work tirelessly to campaign for investment in the restoration and management of the park.

The Friends are represented on working parties considering the future of the grotto and temple buildings with Wanstead Park, both fragile structures. A project to restore the grotto, adding steel support and replacing defective brickwork, was completed in 2025. Regarding the temple, repairs to the roof, and some repointing of brickwork, were also undertaken in the year. Many questions remain regarding the future use and preservation of both buildings, and the Friends continue to advocate for their structural preservation and improved public access.

The Friends of Wanstead Parklands also continues to support to the now completed project for play equipment in Wanstead park, providing close to £6,000 of funds in 2025, supplementing the £8,000 funds secured in 2024, and a donation of a sum of £2,000 in 2022. The natural play area was constructed during 2022 and 2023, and is a well-loved and used part of the park.

Events run

The Friends of Wanstead Parklands ran many successful events during the course of a year, including several history walks in the park and another successful annual quiz event in November 2025, all with the aim of raising awareness of Wanstead Parklands' unique heritage, and offering an opportunity to enjoy the natural aspect of the park.

The Friends continue to hold the very successful litter pick events which began in 2020 and became a monthly event in 2021 and are now supplemented with a regular bookstall. These litter picks have generated significant interest and enabled community participation in the maintenance and improvement of Wanstead Parklands.

All of these events attract a significant number of adults and children into Wanstead Park.

Promotion of the Park

Through a quarterly newsletter, website and social media (with over 7,000 members in a Facebook group and over 2,000 followers on Twitter/X), and a stall held at the annual Wanstead Festival, the Friends provided information to members, and the wider public, on key developments regarding maintenance works in the park, including the signage and grotto projects mentioned above, the natural play area, ongoing state of the lakes and associated repair work, and the re-introduction of grazing cattle to Wanstead Park. The reach of the Friends is also used to canvas public opinion regarding the park – in 2025, specifically regarding the location of benches around the park. The Friends uses its presence on the Wanstead Park Stakeholder Group to advocate for these priorities.

Other projects

As well as publicising the re-introduction of grazing cattle to Wanstead Park, the Friends continue to provide support as needed for this popular project.

The Friends continues to consult with members on ideas for projects that could be covered by small grants and existing funds. Any such ideas are discussed with the CofL with the aim of making further improvements to the park whilst we campaign for more significant funds for bigger projects.

Financial Review

Reserves:

The charity held cash at bank at December 2025 of £15,675 (*31 December 2024: £20,290*), of which £15,675 (*31 December 2024: £20,290*) is unrestricted funds. These funds are held in order to meet any unexpected expenditure that may occur. The charity aims to hold at least £7,000 and no more than £15,000 of reserves at the year end; reserves can be used to fund park projects of value up to £5,000.

Overview of financial performance:

Income for the full year 2025 was £2,765 (*2024: £2,716*), with 36% (*2024: 34%*) coming from membership subscriptions, which is a slight increase in the year, but down compared with 2022 and 2023, mainly due to the impact of high levels of lifetime members joining in those years. Friends of Wanstead Parklands now have around 400 paid up members. The remaining income comes from donations and merchandise sales, and from the quiz night event mentioned above.

The main ongoing costs are insurance costs and the costs of running the website and quarterly newsletter, and there was further investment in merchandise (books, cards and leaflets) made during the year, intended to be sold in future to generate further funds.

Donations of £5,797 were made in 2025 (*2024: £8,000*) towards the Wanstead Park playground fund, following donations made towards the playground fund and the signage project in 2022.

After these costs, the Friends had a net decrease in funds of £4,765 in 2024 (2024: increase of £1,094).

Statement of receipts and payments for the year:

	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year
	2025	2024	2023	2022
	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP
Revenue				
Membership	1,010	930	1,445	1,561
Sponsorship	-	-	605	
Donations	410	457	405	831
Events / fundraising	814	902	965	716
Merchandise	502	400	367	1,130
Litter picking equipment sales	30	-	30	5
Paypal/Amazon just giving	-	-	18	6
Interest Income	-	28	-	-
Total	**2,765**	**2,716**	**3,836**	**4,250**
Expenses				
Purchase of merchandise - new	-316	-293	-123	-894
Purchase of merchandise - existing	-130	-100	-175	-
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-52
Events / fundraising costs	-300	-28	-172	-185
Newsletter costs	-95	-190	-305	-285
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-	-34	-
Printing and postage	-	-	-	-75
Website expenses	-288	-311	-288	-263
Zoom subscription	-156	-156	-144	-144
Survey software subscription	0	-228	-	-
Insurance	-293	-141	-141	-141
Committee member expenses	-40	-42	-	-
Bank fees	-55	-73	-87	-95
Total	**-1,673**	**-1,562**	**-1,468**	**-2,134**
Net income before donations	**1,092**	**1,154**	**2,368**	**2,116**
Donations				
Funding received re playground	0	8,000		
Donations and contributions to Wanstead Park playground	-5,797	-8,000		-2,000
Donation to signage				-900
Other donations	-60	-60	-60	
Total net income	**-4,765**	**1,094**	**2,308**	**-784**

Statement of assets and liabilities:

	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022
	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP
Assets				
HSBC current account	15,675	20,290	14,670	12,183
Nationwide savings account	0	0	4,425	4,425
Petty cash	74	74	74	74
Stock	262	392	492	667
	16,010	**20,755**	**19,661**	**17,348**
Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net assets	**16,010**	**20,755**	**19,661**	**17,348**

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Peter Brimson

Chair

16th October 2026