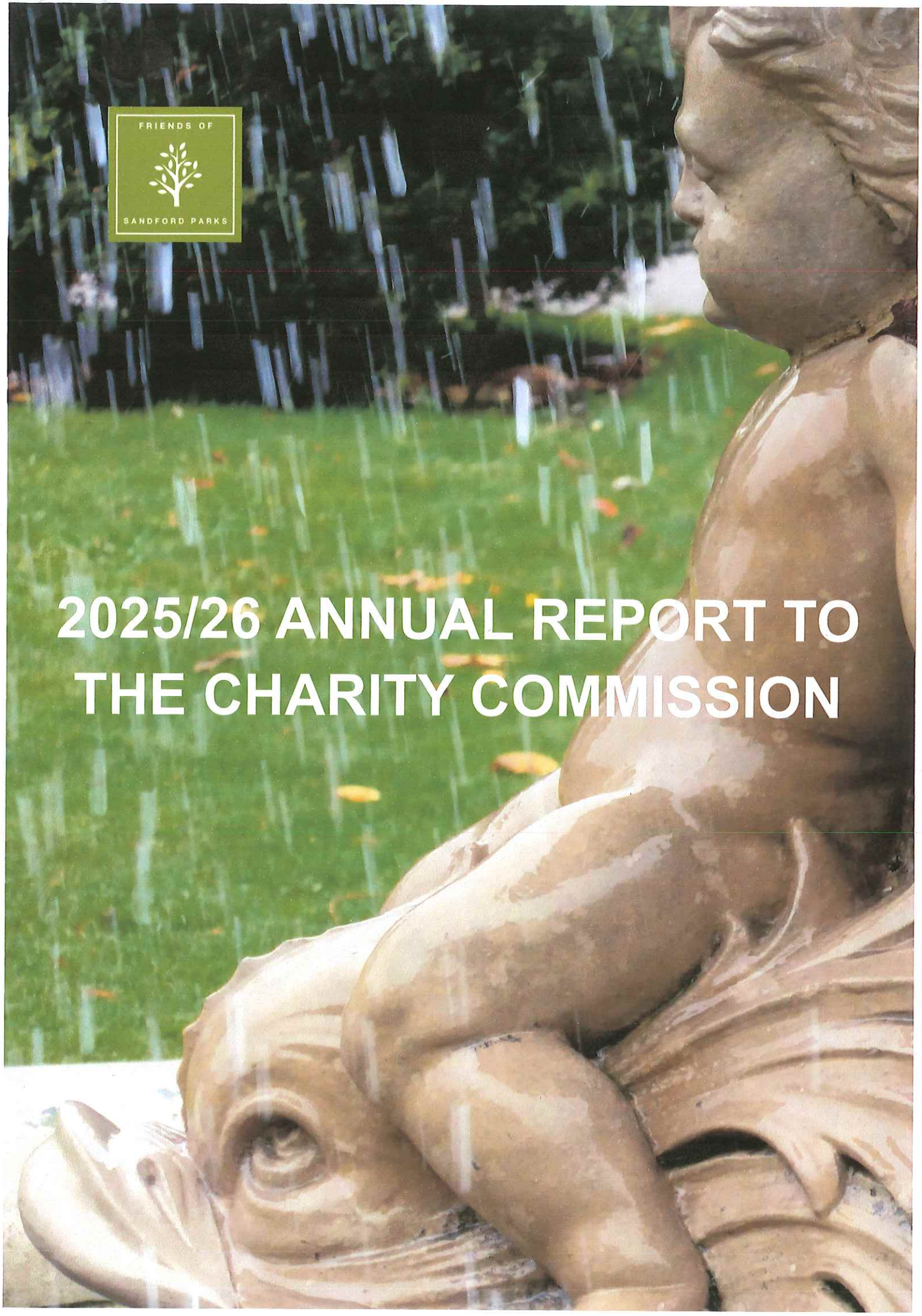


2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION

1. REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Friends of Sandford Parks (FOSP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that was registered on 22 May 2023, with charity number 1203191.

This report covers the financial year from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2026.

The registered and principal office address of FOSP is:

4 Belgravia Court

116 London Road

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire GL52 6HJ

The trustees serving during the year were:

Simon Richardson (Chair) – appointed Trustee on 29 January 2026

Anne Evans OBE, MA (Vice Chair)

Richard Dominic Dickens Woolley

Celia Mary Macnab

Nigel Gilhead

Ian Alexander Johnstone (Treasurer)

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

FOSP was established in 2014 as an unincorporated membership organisation. Members undertake fundraising, litter-picking and park maintenance activities, while also liaising with Cheltenham Borough Council and campaigning to preserve and enhance the parks' facilities. Following growth in its activities and income, FOSP registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in May 2023.

FOSP is an independent CIO and is governed by a constitution based closely on the Charity Commission's Model Constitution for a CIO with a voting membership ('Association Model Constitution'). General Meetings are held quarterly, and the trustees meet every four to six weeks to oversee the charity's activities. The Constitution requires a minimum of four trustees.

In August 2026, FOSP had 105 subscribing members and 12 honorary members.

FOSP has no employees and does not own or lease any land or buildings. FOSP's assets are limited to cash funds plus materials and equipment. The total value of the materials and equipment is less than £200.

The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2026 were approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting held on 13 October 2026. As FOSP's gross income was below £25,000, the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and have not been subject to an independent examination.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

General

FOSP's objectives are to benefit the residents of Cheltenham and the surrounding area ("the area of benefit"), by providing, or supporting the provision of, facilities for recreation and other leisure activities in the interests of social welfare. The aim is to improve the quality of life for the local community, particularly, though not exclusively, through the preservation, promotion, support, assistance, and enhancement of Sandford Parks.

FOSP raises funds for park infrastructure, including lighting, exercise equipment, seating, table tennis tables, planting and horticultural restoration. Its members help with park maintenance and conduct regular litter picking. FOSP is currently campaigning to raise funds for installing heritage information signs and for upgrading the playground. FOSP liaises closely with Cheltenham Borough Council who own and manage Sandford Parks.

2025-26 Activities

The 2025-2026 financial year was another successful period for FOSP. Membership increased to 105, while volunteers continued to work tirelessly on litter picking and gardening, helping to keep both parks well-maintained and attractive. Community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting that the two sections of Sandford Parks are looking better than ever.

During the year, FOSP further strengthened its reputation as a valued community organisation and an effective advocate for the enhancement of the parks.

Looking ahead, FOSP has identified two major priorities: upgrading the children's playground and raising awareness of the parks' rich heritage. Work on both projects is already underway. As part of this heritage initiative, Keep Britain Tidy has encouraged improvements in the way the parks' history is interpreted for visitors. The design of new heritage boards commenced during the year and will continue as the project develops.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

In July 2026, the parks retained their Green Flag status, recognising the high standards achieved in their management and maintenance.

In December, the Celebration of Christmas brought together a local primary school, the church and members of the community to share music, readings, carols, accompanied by homemade mince pies and mulled wine.

The Summer Festival was the charity's most significant fundraising achievement of the year. Held on a lovely summer day, the event attracted large crowds and generated a net contribution of almost £6,000 towards the planned upgrade of the playground. The festival demonstrated FOSP's reputation for delivering successful, responsible and well-organised public events.

This year, FOSP began restoring the park's historic Friendship Gardens, established in 1951 to celebrate Cheltenham's international partnerships. The first project focused on the Göttingen Garden, marking 75 years of friendship between the two towns. Supported by grant funding and guidance from Göttingen representatives, the restoration includes new planting, donated crocus bulbs and a commemorative plaque, helping to preserve and celebrate an important part of Sandford Parks heritage.

Together, these achievements demonstrate FOSP's diverse skills and capabilities in delivering a range of successful projects and events for the benefit of the local community.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts for the year ended 31 August amounted to £13,949, comprising £12,645 in restricted funds and £1,304 in unrestricted funds. Restricted income included £5,348 in donations towards the Playground Project, while the Summer Festival generated a net contribution of £5,647 after costs.

Total expenditure amounted to £2,486, of which £1,770 related to the design of heritage boards.

At 31 August 2026, cash reserves amounted to £40,805, comprising £3,305 in the current account and £37,500 in the deposit account. Of this balance, £39,793 represented restricted funds and £1,012 unrestricted funds.

FOSP seeks to ensure that membership subscriptions are sufficient to cover general and marketing costs. During the year, subscription income amounted to £736, while total administration costs were £716.

The trustees' reserves policy is to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds to cover general administration and marketing costs for at least six months. The trustees consider that unrestricted reserves of £500 are adequate for this purpose. Expenditure on charitable projects is restricted to the funds received specifically for those projects.

6. DESIGNATED PROJECT FUNDS

Each charitable project is accounted for separately. Details of the principal restricted funds are set out below.

Playground Fund

Donations of £5,348 were received during the year, and the 2026 Summer Festival generated a net contribution of £5,647 after costs. At 31 August 2026, the total funds raised for the playground project amounted to £30,100.

Park Bench Project

In January 2024, FOSP received a grant of £800 from Cheltenham Rotary and, in May 2024, a donation of £2,000 from the Jockey Club Gold Cup 100 Fund. These funds were used to purchase two wooden park benches, which were installed in late 2024. Payment for the benches was made on 12 October 2026.

Twinning Sign

A sum of £500 has been allocated for the installation of a twinning sign. Payment will be made once the sign has been installed.

7. PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The purpose of FOSP is to help ensure that Sandford Parks retain their amenity value for the health, wellbeing and enjoyment of park users and the wider public. Membership of FOSP does not confer any special privileges beyond those available to the public generally.

In carrying out its activities, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit (PB1). The trustees are satisfied that FOSP's activities provide a clear public benefit and comply with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the FOSP Trustees

Simon Richardson, Trustee ..... S.M. Richardson .....

Dated ..... 28/10/2026 .....

Ian A Johnstone, Trustee & Treasurer ..... I Johnstone .....

Dated ..... 28/10/26 .....



ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

Income	£
Membership	736
Donations	158
Sale of cards	22
Interest received	388
Total income	**1,304**

Expenditure	£
Heritage board design	1,770
Banner	125
Consumables	110
Website cost	176
Insurance	305
Total expenditure	**2,486**
Deficit for the year	**(1,182)**

Restricted Funds Received During the Year	£
Festival 2026 net of costs	5,647
Playground donations	5,348
Göttingen Garden	1,100
Festival 2025	300
Heritage board	250
Total restricted funds	**12,645**

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026

Assets	£
Current account	3,305
Deposit account	37,500
Total assets	**40,805**
Represented by:	
General Account balance	1,155
Restricted Funds balance	39,650
Total	**40,805**

Liabilities	£
Due to CBC for park benches	2,700
Due to CBC for twinning signs	500
Total liabilities	**3,200**
Total funds	**37,605**

FUNDING PROJECTS

Playground Fund

As of 31 August 2026, the fund stood at £36,100. The Summer Festival 2026 generated a net contribution of £5,647 after costs. In addition, donations totalling £5,348 (net of charges) were received during the year.

Park Bench Project

Funding of £2,800 has been received for this project. Two benches have now been installed in Sandford Park (West). Payment will be made once signage is corrected.

Gottingen Garden

A grant of £1,100 was received and used to cover planting costs.

Heritage Signs

Donations of £250 were received during the year, bringing the fund to £1,170,

Twinning signs

£500 has been received for this project.

The accounts were approved by members at the Annual General Meeting on 13 October 2026.

Ian Johnstone

Trustee and Treasurer

28 October 2026