GUNNERSBURY HERITAGE CIO

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Charitable Incorporated Organisation | Charity number 1209795

Includes a clearly separated progress update for 1 April to 20 October 2026.

Highlights

Our community	Nature and heritage action
34 active members; membership is free	Gunnersbury After Dark bat walks and surveys
Approximately 4,800 social media followers	Google Earth bat activity mapping
Approximately 1,000 packets of bee-friendly flower seeds distributed	Partnership work with Hounslow Parks Forum, Habitats & Heritage and London Bat Group, CPRE etc.

The bat walk, survey, partnerships and seed-distribution highlights refer to the 2026 programme. Activities commencing during the reporting year and continuing beyond 31 March 2026 are included to reflect the charity's ongoing work and progress.

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1. Reference and administrative information

Particular	Detail
Registered name	Gunnersbury Heritage CIO
Registration number	1209795
Legal form	Association-model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (England and Wales)
Main office and registered contact address	Gunnersbury Heritage, 66 Paul Street, London EC2A 4NA
Chair and trustee	Siyka Doneva M.A.
Trustees	Elina Ivanova; Anton Henriksen MBA
Telephone	07591056992
Email	gunnersburyheritage@gmail.com
Website	https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/

The three trustees named above remained in office throughout the period and at the date of preparation of this report, as confirmed by the trustees.

2. Charitable objects and public benefit

The charity was registered on 29 August 2024. Its charitable objects are:

1. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of Gunnersbury.

2. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Gunnersbury and its surrounding area.

3. To maintain, improve, provide or assist in the provision of public amenities for the public benefit in Gunnersbury.

4. For the benefit of the inhabitants of West London (the area of benefit), to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.

Public benefit

In planning and carrying out its activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The charity makes local heritage and natural-history knowledge accessible to the general public, encourages participation in conservation and community improvement, and works to safeguard public amenities for residents and visitors. Membership remains free, supporting open access to participation regardless of ability to pay.

3. Achievements in the year ended 31 March 2026

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, Gunnersbury Heritage continued its community-based programme of environmental protection, heritage education and improvement of local public spaces. The established initiatives outlined below remained active as ongoing campaigns. Most programme delivery was supported by volunteers, while trustee donations covered basic operating costs.

Eco-Explorer. The interactive QR-code heritage and nature trail continued to encourage discovery of local landmarks, green spaces and historical information. The initiative offers families a free, educational outdoor activity, helping to ease cost-of-living pressures while encouraging exploration of Gunnersbury's natural and cultural heritage.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/eco-explorer-embark-on-a-green-adventure-in-gunnersbury

Clean Canvas. The local graffiti response programme continued to focus on unwanted tagging while distinguishing it from valued public and community artwork.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/clean-canvas-join-us-in-keeping-gunnersbury-graffiti-free

Plant of the Month Club. The charity maintained its public-facing nature education programme, drawing attention to local plants, pollinators and the ecological value of native species. Regular social media posts and more detailed website aimed to educate our thousands of followers.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/plant-of-the-month-club

Dealer-Free Zone. The community safety campaign continued to encourage the reporting and removal of illegal drug-advertising stickers in public places, including areas near schools.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/clean-up-brighten-up-join-our-campaign-to-remove-drug-dealer-stickers

Kindness Rocks. The community initiative continued to promote neighbourliness and constructive positive messages. In 2025 the original 2024 kind massages were supplemented by international flags making our diverse community feel recognised and welcomed.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/kindness-rocks

Gunnersbury 100. The charity continued to champion accessible local history through its Gunnersbury 100 initiative, celebrating Gunnersbury's centenary in 2025. Following months of dedicated research by volunteers at the London Archives and the National Archives at Kew, historical records spanning a century were digitised and made freely accessible to the public, helping preserve Gunnersbury's rich heritage for future generations.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/exploring-gunnersburys-rich-history-introducing-gunnersbury-100

Greening Gunnersbury. The community planting campaign remained a focus of the charity's biodiversity and local environmental work. Punkin Season was introduced to promote environmentally friendly activities during the autumn holiday season.

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/greening-gunnersbury

https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/story-title

The charity also continued to engage with other local community and conservation organisations over matters affecting the environment and Gunnersbury's publicly accessible green spaces. Detailed outcomes for the 2026 bat and seed programmes are described separately below because they fall principally after this financial year end.

4. Ongoing Activities and Developments, 2025 to 2026

The initiatives outlined below began towards the end of the previous reporting year and continued throughout 2025/26, with further developments during 2026. They are included to provide a comprehensive account of the charity's ongoing work, achievements and progress. Activities undertaken after 31 March 2026 are reported for completeness, while the accompanying financial statements cover only the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

Gunnersbury After Dark: bat walks and nocturnal wildlife

The charity's principal new conservation focus in 2026 has been Gunnersbury After Dark, an accessible programme centred on the areas bat populations and their habitats. Volunteer-led bat walks introduced local residents to the park's nocturnal wildlife and to the use of bat detectors. The walks also offered a practical way to discuss the importance of dark corridors, suitable foraging areas and the pressures that artificial light and disturbance can create for nocturnal species.

The public bat-walk programme has been one of the charity's principal successes this year. It has helped connect residents, volunteers and specialists around a shared interest in the conservation of protected species. The walks were supported by public liability insurance through a specialist charity insurer, purchased in May 2026.

Project pages: https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/gunnersbury-after-dark
https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/bat-walk-at-gunnersbury-park

Google Earth Bat Survey Project

Alongside the walks, the charity developed a map-based bat survey initiative using Google Earth to record locations of observations and support public engagement with habitat conservation. The aim is to provide a useful, accessible record of bat activity in and around Gunnersbury Park, encourage repeat observations, and establish a stronger evidence base for future conservation and habitat protection work.

Volunteer observations provide an important basis for community science, with species identification and any ecological conclusions subject to appropriate expert validation. The trustees intend to expand the project through continued engagement with specialist organisations and volunteer participants.

Project page: https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/google-earth-bat-survey-project

Greening Gunnersbury

The charity's community planting programme has distributed and delivered approximately 1,000 pouches of bee-friendly flower seeds to local residents. The project has given households a simple, low-cost opportunity to help support pollinators and bring nature into gardens and community spaces. Its reach demonstrates the value of practical projects that residents can undertake themselves.

Project page: https://gunnersburyheritage.square.site/s/stories/greening-gunnersbury

Partnerships, shared expertise and wider reach

Collaborative working has become a defining strength of the 2026 programme. Gunnersbury Heritage has worked with and maintained links to Habitats & Heritage and London Bat Group, the latter a partner group of the Bat Conservation Trust. These connections have helped the charity develop its conservation activities, exchange experience and improve the quality of local community engagement.

The charity has also joined Hounslow Parks Forum, opening opportunities to work with other charities, friends groups and community organisations with aligned objectives. Shared knowledge and cooperation will support public participation, protection of open space and the delivery of future projects.

Our work to protect public access to and the preservation of Gunnersbury Park has also included providing advice and support to local residents. We continue to work closely with CPRE and are expanding our cooperation with the Open Spaces Society and other London-wide and national charities and friends groups to safeguard public green spaces, uphold community interests and ensure their protection for future generations.

The charity now reports 34 active members and approximately 4,800 followers across its social media channels. The charity has continued to grow, increasing from 22 members and 16 volunteers recorded in 2024/25 to 34 active members in 2026, representing approximately 55% growth in membership. Membership will remain free. The trustees intend to seek financial support primarily for necessary running costs and public activities, with larger project fundraising considered separately when specific schemes are ready to proceed.

5. Structure, governance and management

The charity is an Association-model Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its CIO constitution, registered in August 2024. Its three trustees are collectively responsible for the administration of the charity, stewardship of funds and compliance with its charitable objects. The charity is supported by members and volunteers; participation is organised around particular programmes, campaigns and community activities.

The trustees work with external bodies in ways that support the CIO's purposes while retaining responsibility for its own decisions and expenditure. Trustees and volunteers also review practical arrangements for outdoor activities, including insurance, participant safety and information handling where relevant.

Trustees' appointment and election procedures are governed by the association constitution. The precise adoption date and the detailed constitutional clause governing appointment of trustees should be transcribed from the signed constitution before approval of this report. No changes to the three named trustees were reported for this period.

6. Financial review and reserves

The charity has maintained a low-cost operating model. Routine payments during the year related principally to address and mail services, telephone and communications services, and banking charges. Income was provided through regular trustee donations. The charity does not charge a membership fee and aims to raise only the funds required for essential running costs and community activities.

Bank records for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 show receipts of £540.00 and payments of £417.31, giving a net cash increase of £122.69. The balance rose from £90.00 at 31 March 2025 to £212.69 at 31 March 2026.

Reserves policy

The trustees previously established a target of £150 in unrestricted general reserves to provide a buffer against basic running costs and unforeseen expenses. At 31 March 2026, the bank cash balance was £212.69. The board will review the reserves target annually, particularly as its insurance, conservation and public event activities expand.

Risks and financial outlook

Key financial considerations are the continued availability of trustee support, regular service charges, public event insurance and the costs of tools and equipment for future conservation work. The trustees intend to keep membership free and seek only the minimum funding needed for basic operations and activities. Larger grants, sponsorship or project-specific fundraising will be considered next year to support new or ongoing biodiversity and heritage projects.

7. Receipts and payments accounts

Gunnersbury Heritage CIO, charity number 1209795. Reporting period: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Accounting basis: receipts and payments. All figures are in pounds sterling. The receipts and payments have been checked against the bank statements supplied; final trustee review of other assets, liabilities and direct expenditure is still required.

7.1 Receipts and payments statement

Unrestricted cash funds	2025/26 £	Basis
Trustee donations	540.00	12 monthly trustee receipts of £45.00
Total cash receipts	540.00	Confirmed bank receipts
PAYMENTS		
Address and mail services	320.31	3 x £24.00, 9 x £27.59
Telephone and communications services	72.00	12 x £6.00
Bank charges	25.00	5 x £5.00
Total expenditure	417.31	
Net receipts less payments	122.69	Confirmed bank payments
Opening cash at bank, 1 April 2025	90.00	Bank transactions to 31 March 2025
Closing cash at bank, 31 March 2026	212.69	

7.2 Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2026

Description	Amount / status
Cash at bank	£212.69

8. Plans for 2026/27 and trustees' approval

Over the coming year, the trustees intend to continue the charity's established initiatives while prioritising bat conservation, survey participation and effective partnerships. Gunnersbury After Dark and the Google Earth mapping project will be developed where capacity and resources permit. Greening Gunnersbury, Gunnersbury 100, Eco-Explorer, Clean Canvas, Plant of the Month Club, Dealer-Free Zone and Kindness Rocks will continue as part of the charity's existing community offer.

The charity will strengthen relationships through Hounslow Parks Forum, Habitats & Heritage, London Bat Group and other local organisations. The aim is to increase volunteering opportunities, share knowledge and develop future practical conservation and heritage projects. Membership will remain free, with core expenditure kept to a minimum and separate fundraising explored for more substantial schemes next year.

Trustee approval

The trustees approve this report and the accompanying accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026,

Date approved by trustees:

21st Oct 2026

Authorised trustee signature:



Name and role: Siyka Doneva M.A., Chair

9. Notes to the accounts and relevant information

Accounting framework. Receipts and payments accounts are permitted for a CIO with the charity's reported level of income for the year ended 31 March 2026, subject to its constitution and any funder requirements. They include a statement of cash movements and a statement of year-end assets and liabilities.

Independent examination. The gross income indicated by the account is below the £25,000 independent examination threshold applicable to years ending before 30 September 2026.

Current regulatory references: Charity Commission, "Charity accounts: rules for Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)" (updated 16 September 2026);