

Registered Charity No: 802905

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK
REPORT
and
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Contents

	Page
Legal and Administrative Details	3-4
The Objectives of Friends of Battersea Park	5
Trustees' Report	6-8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12-15

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Legal and Administrative Details

The Committee of the Friends of Battersea Park are the Trustees of the Charity. The officers (starred below) are initially elected for a term of three years; they are eligible for re-election thereafter.

Fenella Barber

Kate Bock (elected September 2023)

Karen Buckle

Julia Camara (resigned November 2023)

Russ Coffey

Inge Darling

Adrian Flook

Treasurer*

Miles Kerstein

Peta-May Law

Juliet Lyon-Smith

Secretary*

Sara Milne

Briony Newman

Michèle Marriott (resigned September 2023)

Sally Orman

Frances Radcliffe

Annabel Stein

Garon Watkins

Chairman*

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Legal and Administrative Details (continued)

**TSB, Clapham
Shawbrook**

**Bankers
Bankers**

George Coe

Independent Examiner

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

The objectives of the Friends of Battersea Park shall be for the public benefit to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Battersea Park (hereinafter called “the Park”) as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, rest and recreation; to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Park and, in particular, its retention as a semi-natural habitat for wildlife; and to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Activities

Trustees Report 2023/24

The year ending 31 March 2024 was, as ever, eventful for Battersea Park and the Friends' community. Your committee met 10 times, principally via Zoom but also, on occasion in person which we value as an opportunity for better interaction and for newer members to form a stronger connection with colleagues. Our meetings were also attended by Neil Blackley, Head of Parks, at Enable Culture and Leisure who manage Wandsworth open spaces on behalf of the Council, and his colleague Valter Goncalves who fulfils a valuable liaison role for Friends' groups and Management Advisory Committees (MACs) across the Borough. As of year-end, Friends' membership stood at 676.

Your Annual General meeting was held at All Saints Church on 12 September 2023 and was attended by 41 Friends. Following the formal business of approving the Trustees Report and Accounts, there was an open forum session with Neil Blackley and Inspector Steve Biggs of the Parks Police answering Friends' questions.

In terms of governance, Adrian Flook, your Treasurer, and Juliet Lyon Smith, Secretary, were both re-elected for a further three year term and George Coe ACCA was appointed as our Independent Financial Examiner. Miles Kerstein, previously co-opted, and Kate Bock were elected as Trustees, while long standing and valued trustee Michèle Marriot left the committee after her move out of London. Following the committee's announcement of a search for a new chairman in the summer of 2023, Kate Bock has been appointed Acting Chairman from 1 April 2024 pending Friends' approval at the Annual General Meeting.

I continued to represent the Friends on the Wandsworth Greenspaces Forum where Friends' Groups and MACs from across the borough meet with Councillor Judi Gasser, the Executive Cabinet member responsible for greenspaces, Council officers and Enable to address concerns and issues facing our parks. Particular focus this year has been on illegal cycling which is a perennial problem. There is now an initiative, nearing completion, to review and replace signage in open spaces to leave no doubt as to where cycling is prohibited. There are also plans to establish periodic police focus points in key areas to enforce the law.

The Friends' BBQ was again a highlight of the summer and for the first time was held at the Bowling Green. As well as being our main fundraising event, it has always been a lovely opportunity for the Friends' community to enjoy an evening together. My thanks as ever to Peta May Law and Inge Darling and the great team of volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible while also raising over £7,000 for the Friends to invest in the Park.

Following the popularity of the party in the Old English Garden to mark Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, a Friends' team led by Sara Milne organised another party to mark the coronation of King Charles which was also very popular, despite wet weather. Our lunchtime lecture series organised by Annabel Stein delivered two well attended events in November and March on spiders and mosses in the Park. As usual, the Friends contributed to the Wandsworth

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Heritage Festival with a walk in the Park led by Frances Radcliffe. We also organised a tree walk led by ex-tree warden Greg Packman.

The Friends had stands in the Park at Summer at the Bandstand and the Police Dog Show: these are valuable opportunities to recruit new members and hear from Park users. We are very grateful to the Parks Police for kindly donating to the Friends the profits of the Dog Show which were over £740.

The Friends continued to support the restoration of the Winter Garden following the damage it suffered during the Covid lockdowns. The Friends covered the costs of Dan Pearson's annual visit to advise on appropriate future planting as well as the cost of the plants themselves. As Friends will be aware, the Garden was temporarily fenced off to allow for unhindered regrowth. The full cost of proper fencing in keeping with other areas of the Park is too much for the Friends alone to bear, but we are prepared to make a significant donation and have been actively seeking further funds from other sources. The temporary plastic fencing, removed at the end of January and the subsequent wet weather have greatly improved matters and it is possible that permanent fencing may not be needed. Outcome awaited.

The Friends have also engaged with the Enable over the poor condition of the roses in the Russell Page Garden and plans are in place to make improvements in the spirit of the original design.

As part of our remit to educate, we contributed £3,600 last year to fund the development of Park-based science lessons for primary schools. This teaching material is now available. We have also agreed to fund visits from more elderly residents through a programme run with the Katherine Low Settlement.

As Friends will have read in *Review*, the 50th Anniversary of the Big Dipper tragedy was in 2022 and the families of those involved have been campaigning for a permanent memorial in the form of an environmentally sustainable children's theatre in the Park. The Friends have extended their support in principle to this project, but are awaiting further details before a full endorsement.

Wandsworth Council held a consultation on Parkrun in May and June. Your committee urged all Friends to make individual submissions as views vary within the membership. The committee took a neutral position and wrote to the Council to say that should it take place we would want a trial period, a limitation on the numbers taking part and satisfactory arrangements in place to ensure access during the runs to playgrounds and All Weather Pitches which are popular on Saturday mornings. The committee continues to engage with the Council as we have yet to hear of how these issues are to be managed.

The Friends continue to monitor planning applications that may impact the Park. We supported the proposal to allow the temporary Evolution Building on the British Genius Site to remain for a further four years without being taken down because of the environmental costs involved, but our support was on the understanding that the building would remain defined as temporary and that there will be another planning application in 2027 if it is to be retained. We also supported a proposal to extend the Pear Tree Café to provide additional lavatories. We objected to the

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

proposed 38 storey tower next to Battersea Bridge in the context of an application about the scope of the Environment Impact Assessment. This would be visible from large parts of the Park.

The Review team have once again produced and distributed three issues of the magazine which remains popular with Friends. Our thanks go to Frances Radcliffe, the Editor, and her team as well as all those Friends who help to distribute it by hand thus saving on ever increasing postal costs.

Particular thanks this year go to Russ Coffey for all his work on upgrading our website.

The Trustees would like to thank sincerely all those who work to maintain and enhance the Park and also to the Friends' community for their support, particularly the Winter Garden volunteers. May I, as your retiring chairman, also express my thanks to the Trustees for their support, dedication, and passion for our Park during my tenure and offer my heartfelt good wishes for the future.

Responsibilities

Financial

Charity legislation requires the Trustees to prepare the Statement of Financial Activities for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of that period. In preparing Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them on a consistent basis making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for the safeguarding of the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are required to indicate where the Statement of Financial Activities is prepared other than on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 5 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Garon Watkins
Chairman

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items disclosed in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

George Coe
10 August 2024
Independent Examiner

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Incoming resources	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Voluntary income				
Subscriptions	8,891	0	8,891	7,860
Gift Aid HMRC refund	5,370	0	5,370	0
Miscellaneous donations and Rattle Boxes	1,931	0	1,931	3,503
Activities for generating funds				
Events	18,736	0	18,736	13,893
Advertising	2,690	0	2,690	4,915
Book Sales	156	0	156	92
Stock Sales	303	0	303	335
Investment income				
Bank interest	828	0	828	328
PayPal increase in year end income	349	0	349	
Total incoming resources	39,254	0	39,254	30,926
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Membership Expenses	1,239	0	1,239	1,475
Review Magazine costs	2,146	0	2,146	3,427
Event expenditure	7,655	0	7,655	6,997
Postcards	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities				
Investment by FoBP				
Thrive	0	0	0	384
Walter St John Charitable Trust	0	0	0	6,440
Dan Pearson advice	737	0	737	678
Yew clipping	420	0	420	420
Winter Garden Planting 2022	0	0	0	4,058
Winter Garden Planting 2023	0	0	0	4,167
Merchandise (Mugs)	780	0	780	0
Winter Garden Planting (Autumn 2024)	2,376	0	2,376	0
Daffodils	185	0	185	0
Governance Costs				
Professional Services & Fees	1,959	0	1,959	684
Insurance	456	0	456	373
Total resources expended	17,953	0	17,953	29,103
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	21,301	0	21,301	1,823
Total bank balances carried forward	99,282	0	99,282	77,981

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
PayPal, Deposits & Cash at bank	99,282	0	99,282	77,981
Capital and Reserves				
<i>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</i>	21,301	0	21,301	1,826
Total funds brought forward	77,981	0	77,781	76,155
<hr/>				
<i>Total funds carried forward</i>	99,282	0	99,282	77,981
<hr/>				

Approved by the Trustees of the Friends of Battersea Park on 5 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Garon Watkins
Chairman
FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Basis of Preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - the updated second edition of the SORP (FRS 102) issued in 2019 and with Accounting Standards as detailed in the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

Until the 2016/17 accounts the charity had chosen to prepare accrual accounts. However, since the Charity has, in recent years, income between £25,000 and £250,000 the Charity can choose whether to prepare accounts using either receipts and payments accounts or accruals accounts.

2. Accounting policies

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has received the resources.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income such as the BBQ) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA except for PayPal and Stripe charges which are separately recorded below under bank charges.

Grants and donations Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax reclaims on donations

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA in **and**
gifts the year in which it is received.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

There were no gifts in kind in this financial year.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

INCOMING RESOURCES (continued)

Donated services and Facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees annual report.
Bank Charges	As a charity, the TSB does not charge us any fees for banking with them. Stripe (£481.33) and PayPal (£93.80) charges the charity a variable percentage of what is put through their system, which includes Zettle; in the last year in total these fees amounted to £575.13.
PayPal and Stripe	Without excess and unjustified effort, it is not possible to allocate payments to the penny received by PayPal or Stripe to their source (eg ticket sales, subscriptions, event sales, books mugs and postcards).
Gift Aid	An application for the return of gift aid was made during the 2023-24 financial year which amounted to £5,370 for both 2021-22 and 2022-23.
Investment gains and losses	The charity does not have any investments other than two interest bearing bank accounts at TSB and Shawcross.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised on a cash accounting basis meaning the Charity recognise liabilities when it pays them
Governance costs	Include, when applicable, the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity The
Charity has no tangible fixed assets

3 Creditors and accruals

3.1 Analysis of creditors	This year	Last year
---------------------------	-----------	-----------

Invoices dated billed before 31 March 2024 that were outstanding. £0		£1,498
---	--	--------

3.2 Analysis of debtors

Advertising £550		£795
---------------------	--	------

All of the outstanding balance of £550 for 2022-23 was received by 16th May 2023

The outstanding balance of £795 for 2023-24 was received before the end of June.

4. Analysis of incoming resources

The analysis of incoming resources is given in the SoFA

5. Analysis of resources expended

The analysis of resources expended is given in the SoFA.

6. Details of certain items of expenditure

6.1	Trustee expenses	This year
	Last year	
Number of trustees re-imbursed for expenses 7 (Postage, photocopying, stationery, AGM expenses, and other events)	£7,546	7 £7,082

7. Paid employees
There are no paid employees of the charity

8. Grant making
There were no grants made to other charitable organizations in 2023-24 other than in lieu of payment for the two lectures each year, when contributions of £50 are paid to charities of the speaker's choice.

9. Security over assets
There are no outstanding loans, overdrafts or other creditors of the charity.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

10. Transactions with related parties

10.1 Remuneration and benefits

The charity paid no remuneration or other benefits to any trustees or related parties.

10.2 Loans

The charity had no loans with any trustees or related parties during the year or at the year end.

10.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties.

The charity had no other transactions with the trustees or related parties.