

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1005334

Details

Other names	ABNEY PARK CEMETERY TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02634036
Registered	1991-11-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The South Lodge Abney Park London England N16 0LH
Phone	02072757557
Email	info@abneypark.org
Website	www.abneypark.org

Activities

Objects: (1)THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS ABNEY PARK CEMETERY AS AN AREA OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS (2)TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF LONDON AND IN PARTICULAR THE BOROUGH OF HACKNEY WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF RACE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND INHABITANTS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS (3)THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION BY THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DISPLAY OF A COLLECTION OR COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION LITERATURE MANUSCRIPTS AND ARTIFACTS CONCERNING THE HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT, ASSOCIATIONS AND ECOLOGY OF THE CEMETERY

Activities: The conservation and management of Abney Park (a 32acre memorial park, heritage chapel & woodland nature reserve) for environmental and arts education, skills training courses, museum/archive

services, & cultural events. Projects include restoration of the Abney Park Chapel, arboretum, and memorials, and a new classroom and children's garden. Based in Stoke Newington, Hackney, London N16.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** HACKNEY
- Hackney

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£86,395	£69,773	-	-
2024-03-31	£41,613	£41,108	-	-
2023-03-31	£44,991	£45,131	-	-
2022-03-31	£56,569	£41,185	-	-
2021-03-31	£68,380	£47,903	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Tom Walker	Chair	2018-11-27
Alex James Sargent		2025-06-11
Dr Stephen Patrick Pinkerton		2025-04-23
Imogen Rebecca Frances Clark		2024-05-19
John McShane		2020-02-12
Martina Girvan		2021-09-08
Mary Link Hurd		2026-05-05
Nicholas Toner		2020-05-27
Professor Yasminah Beebeejaun		2024-05-19
Susan Fajana-Thomas		2014-11-05
Thomas Mark Beardmore		2026-05-05

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1005334

Accounts

ABNEY PARK TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

CHARITY REGISTRATION No. 1005334

COMPANY REGISTRATION No. 02634036

Independent Examiners Ltd
The Grain Store
Hills Barns
Appledram Lane South
Chichester, West Sussex
PO20 7EG

ABNEY PARK TRUST
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ABNEY PARK TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1005334
COMPANY NUMBER	2634036
START OF FINANCIAL PERIOD	1st April 2024
END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD	31st March 2025
TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2025	Tom Walker (Chair) Martina Girvan Carol Goldwag - resigned on 02.07.2024 John McShane Elinor Roberts Nicholas Toner Brooke Louise McKinnis Dr Stephen Pinkerton - appointed on 23.04.2025 Prof Yasminah Beebeejaun - appointed on 19.05.2024 Kevin Kibble - appointed on 19.05.2024 Imgone Clark - appointed on 19.05.2024 Maxwell Kennedy - appointed on 19.05.2024
In addition, representative of Hackney Council on the Board:	Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas Dr Stephen Pinkerton
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	The South Lodge Abney Park London N16 0LH
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1ST AUGUST 1991 AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION ON CHANGE OF NAME DATED 4 JUNE 2008, ALSO AMENDED ON 5 FEBRUARY 2012
BANKERS	HSBC 312 Seven Sisters Road Finsbury Park London N4 2AW
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd The Grain Store Hills Barns Appledram Lane South Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7EG

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25



Credit to Historic England

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity

Abney Park Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 2634036) and a registered charity (registered number 1005334). The Trustees are also Directors of the company.

The Trust is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and its registered office is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High St, London N16 0LH.

The governance and management of the Trust is provided by the Board of Trustees elected by the members and operating in accordance with the articles of association.

The Trust advertises for new trustees when these are required. Between Annual General Meetings, potential new Trustees submit their CV and reasons for wanting to be a Trustee. They are then interviewed by two current Trustees, the Chair, and, if considered suitable, a recommendation is made to the rest of the Board who will then decide whether or not to appoint them. They are then formally put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Trustees are made by nomination from the London Borough of Hackney.

The Trust sends new Trustees an induction pack of documents relating to the Trust (including the governing document and the policies and procedures in place) and Charity Commission guidance on the duties of charity Trustees. The Trust also invites new Trustees to observe the meetings of the Board and spend time at Abney Park with staff members.

Abney Park is a 32-acre park in Stoke Newington in the London Borough of Hackney (Hackney Council). It was formerly a garden cemetery and includes densely wooded grounds based on a Victorian arboretum. It also contains operational buildings, listed historic monuments, tens of thousands of memorials, and a disused but recently stabilised Grade II listed funerary chapel which is Europe's oldest surviving non-denominational chapel. Abney has significant historical, religious, genealogical, museum/archival, ecological and architectural importance.

Abney Park:

- is a registered Historic Park and Garden, Brown Plaque site, and part of the Stoke Newington Conservation Area
- has a number of listed monuments and buildings
- is a designated statutory Local Nature Reserve, the first such reserve in Hackney and
- has received a significant National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to restore the premises and improve access to the park, formally completing in summer 2024
- Has for two years running been awarded Green Flag Status (in 2024 and 2025)

The Trust occupies Abney Park under a Licence to Occupy from Hackney Council. The arrangement between the Trust and Hackney Council is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which is published on our website.

Trust management

Details on the Trust's Board composition and staffing position are included later in this report.

In the period covered by this report we have moved to one active subcommittee. Our committees are made up of Trust staff, Trustees and volunteers with expertise in relevant fields.

The subcommittees meet regularly and report to the APT Board at each meeting.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

Events Committee

Our Events Committee manages the Trust's busy programme of events. They also discuss and coordinate any event proposals that come in from external organisations.

Committee members for the reporting period: Irena Goldwag (Trustee), Haydn Schaare (APT staff), Steph Gill (APT staff), Nick Toner (Trustee), Lorraine Tillett (Volunteer), Ellie Roberts (Trustee), Max Kennedy (Trustee), Yasminah Beebeejaun (Trustee) and Martina Girvan (Trustee).

The second subcommittee, the Fundraising Committee, has been dormant in the reporting period and issues tend to be managed on an ad hoc basis.

Risk assessment

A comprehensive risk register was introduced in 2021/22 and is reviewed periodically by the Board. The main risks during the year have revolved around:

- **Future role and purpose** - the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid has changed our operating model and will require new priorities. The Hackney Council funding we rely on has been reduced for 2025/26 and removed altogether for 2026/27.
- **The Abney Park site** - there are hazards that mean that the public could be at risk. Both Hackney Council and Trust have insurance covering this risk and we work closely with the police to help ensure safety. We maintain a crisis communications plan in case of serious reputational risk.
- **Grant funding and financial stability** - our major grants are secured annually and this means we have to take a prudent approach to financing projects, particularly in a time of continued financial uncertainty including in the public sector.
- **Safeguarding** - as a public site with some history of anti-social behaviour we maintain a high level of vigilance and adherence to safeguarding good practice, particularly for our in person events and those involving families. This includes regular liaison with the council and neighbourhood police. Our safeguarding policy has been refreshed and a training refresh was underway as of September 2025.
- **Pressure on staff and trustees** - the Trust has a small but busy staff team, and a high reliance on volunteers and Trustees. We have Trustee succession plans in place, and offer staff regular opportunities to discuss their needs and challenges and the support they need to be successful.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the Trust

The objects for which the Trust is established, as set out in its articles of association, are:

1. The conservation and restoration for the benefit of the public of the property known as Abney Park or Abney Park Cemetery (Abney) as an area of architectural and ecological significance, and historical and religious associations.
2. To promote the benefit of inhabitants of London and in particular the Borough of Hackney without distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
3. The advancement of public education by the establishment and display of a collection or collections of information literature manuscripts and artefacts concerning the history, development, associations and ecology of the cemetery.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

The work of the Trust

The Trust works to achieve our charitable objectives, which include promoting Abney as an inner-city heritage and community resource. This involves:

- Meeting with Hackney Council's Abney Park Manager and staff regularly to discuss the management of the site and Trust activities.
- Meeting regularly on the sub-committee to consider and progress areas of the Trust's work.
- Developing projects for improving the site and preserving its monuments.
- Organising events and tours for the public on site - both free and ticketed.
- Continuing to look for ways to involve more of the community in Abney and to make it more sustainable.
- Maintaining opportunities for volunteers and actively promoting these volunteering opportunities in conjunction with Hackney Council's volunteer manager.
- Carrying out grave searches and maintenance working closely with families and friends of those buried in Abney Park.

The Trust's relationship with the Council is enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on 2 February 2024 and is available on our website. Quarterly meetings are programmed between senior council officers and Abney staff and Trustees.

Activities during 2024/25

This has been an amazing year for Abney Park Trust and the Park at large. Abney Park Trust began in the late 1970s as a campaign to Save Abney Park Cemetery. The Trust was formed in 1992 and has for years campaigned for the preservation of the site. On 14 November 2024 the site was officially removed from Historic England's At Risk Register. This of course coincided with regaining full access to the premises to commence a busy programme of events, including those under the banner of the National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Activity Plan' which provided separate grant funding for a programme of events.

The following activities were carried out throughout the year to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives:

Events and engagement

We have put on a brilliant programme of events in the reporting period reflecting the skills and strength of our staff as well as our extensive range of collaborators, many of whom give their time for free or charge reduced prices for their work with us.

There are key dates in the Abney calendar including celebrating the anniversary of Abney Park's opening in May each year, the Bronterre O'Brien commemoration event, marking of the Coronation Avenue tragedy (commemorated by the Civilian War Memorial) in October, and Remembrance Sunday in November. Alongside these we put on a range of regular tours as well as developing new collaborations and partnerships.

As was the case last year, our events programme in 2024-25 was split between our National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported Activity Plan of programming and our wider events programme.

This year saw the second and final part of the Activity Plan. Abney Park Trust is extremely grateful to Steph Gill, our Events, Community Engagement and Programming Manager, whose fixed term contract programming this plan came to an end in the reporting period. Steph's remit for the Activity Plan was simple: to plan and run exciting and interesting events in the park and in the new and restored buildings, to bring in people who - for all kinds of reasons - may not have visited or felt at home in the park in the past. This she achieved with aplomb and to acclaim.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

In this period we built a partnership with Ihsan Children's Centre, welcoming children and parents from the local Muslim community to the Delph room for play sessions. We worked with LGBTQ community members to put on Polari workshops and heritage tours. New audiences were introduced to the park's ecology through events like moth surveys and family forest school sessions. We worked with partners at Tower Theatre to produce an audio tour in honour of Abney resident and blind education pioneer Harriet Delph. And we also explored and programmed interesting new thematic avenues for Abney Park Trust, including seasonal festival celebrations and a variety of craft technique workshops. These achievements, and the park's restoration and work done by our partners, were celebrated at a grand reopening at which our chair, Tom Walker, cut the ribbon with the Mayor of Hackney Caroline Woodley. Steph brought a refreshing and inclusive approach to our events programme during her time in the role, and for that we offer her our thanks.

Our wider programme of events continued during this period. As the period closed we launched our 2025 Radical Writers festival series in the newly-restored chapel with a poetry evening featuring Hackney author Iain Sinclair and poet Chris McCabe. Wider cultural offers included a concert organised in partnership with the radio station and platform One Jazz and a screening of "A Matter of Life and Death" by local filmmaker Lynn Dennison. Ecology continued to play a strong role in our programming, with events like bat walks and birdwatch surveys taking place in the period. We marked Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial through poetry, folk choirs, quiet reflection and the Last Post. And our events programme also helped ensure the charity's financial sustainability through events like a prosecco fundraising evening in the chapel.

Membership of the events team evolved over the period, with staff and hard-working volunteers offering different and complementary skills. Our thanks once again to Steph Gill and to our dedicated Trust Co-ordinator Haydn S for their commitment to making Abney Park such a centre for stimulating and interesting events.

The LBH manager and APT office staff meet weekly to ensure that 'on the ground' issues are discussed and resolved.

Our events programme consisted of the following categories of event:

Ecology: 24

Participatory art and craft: 19

Heritage: 15

Stay and play sessions: 14

Traditional and alternative culture: 12

Culture - music, film, theatre, literature: 9

Activity Plan milestones: 3

Civic events: 1 (Remembrance Sunday)

Fundraisers: 1

Annual General Meeting: 1

Some events can be considered part of multiple categories. Some events had more than one iteration in the same series: in most cases, our data counts this as one single event. For these reasons the above figures are approximate.

Online and digital presence

We continue to keep online a microsite with a repository of key information about the National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration project. This includes key documents and, where available, information for the public about the works. As part of the NLHF funding we will renovate the entire Abney Park Trust website: preparatory work for this began in the reporting period.

We also continued to use social media actively both to promote the park, engage the community and forge new collaborations. We have made many new links this way and get interest from across the UK, and occasionally from abroad. At the time of writing we had around 2,600 Facebook page followers, 5,261 X followers and 2,824 Instagram followers.

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Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

We produce a regular short email bulletin which is sent every few weeks to 2,345 subscribers at the time of writing. Since September 2021 it has included an update from the Trust Chair and these updates are included in the news pages on our website.

In total we received around 97,000 active users on our website in this period.

Grave searches

One of our most important roles is offering a grave search facility for those looking for relatives, friends or historic figures. Our team responds to these questions with dedication and compassion.

Abney Park Trust received in the region of 205 (up from 149 last year) enquiries about grave searches and burial records from relatives of those buried in Abney Park in 2023/24. Approximately 64 (up from 49 last year) of these, where the records allowed, led to a full grave search. Although we do ask for a grave search fee, if people are unable to afford the service, or are able to give a smaller donation, we will still carry the search out. It is important for APT to carry out this service and grave search appointments help us to give people further information about their family member's burial and how Abney Park was as a working cemetery. As well as this, we also learn about the people buried in Abney Park.

The grave search includes APT members of staff physically locating the grave site and either supporting the family to view the site or providing pictures and a copy of the burial records kept by the cemetery. This is never a straightforward process given the nature of the site and the often haphazard approach taken to burials during the 1960s and 70s.

If the grave cannot be found APT staff will provide whatever information is available as well as background about the development of the site as a cemetery.

Monument maintenance and restoration

We have remained focused on promoting the history and stories of Abney Park.

During the reporting year we maintained our commitment to cleaning and maintaining the Commonwealth War Graves on the site, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We maintain both individual Commonwealth War Graves and also the Commonwealth War Memorial at the heart of the park. We maintain the latter despite occasional misuse by members of the public. We are very grateful for the grant funding we receive from the CWGC to support this work.

We have continued contact with the CWGC throughout 2024/25 and planned the Remembrance Day memorial service on the War Memorial, at which Deputy Mayor Cllr Anntoinette Bramble gave an inspiring speech, local choirs sang and the Last Post was played. Staff and volunteers pay particular attention to the war graves during May and November and work hard to ensure every grave looks as good as possible.

In relation to listed monuments in the park, we have prepared a preliminary assessment of work needed to maintain or repair a dozen listed monuments. We hope in the medium term to secure funding for these monuments.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Restoration project

In January 2020 Hackney Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a major programme of restoration work for the park and its amenities. This is a huge opportunity for the park and we are grateful for many of our predecessors who campaigned over many years to protect and save the park.

Although the Trust is not directly accountable for the project we are hugely impacted by it and have worked actively with Hackney Council to make it a success.

The work completed shortly before the reporting period covered in this annual report, which as noted above has led to a return to a full programme of Trust activities.

Staffing

In terms of staffing, we employed two part-time members of staff throughout the year.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

This included the time-limited role of the Events, Community Engagement and Programming Manager, a newly shaped role to deliver the National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported 'Activity Plan' along with a wider range of events. The success of that role is noted above in the reporting on our events. Given the time-limited nature of the role and funding, together with the successful delivery of the main milestones, both parties agreed not to renew the eighteen-month contract at the end of the period covered in this annual report. This means we currently (September 2025) employ a single staff member who has a long association with the Trust and an incredible knowledge of the site.

Our team have continued to work very closely with Hackney Council's full-time on-site manager, the Hackney Venues team and Sabel, the company which runs the cafe and manages the community space.

Volunteer support

We rely on volunteers to support the maintenance of the park and the work of the Trust. We are pleased that our volunteering work has continued. This includes:

- A monthly litter pick arranged with volunteers and Lorraine Tillett/APUG
- Grave plot maintenance – working with Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- General landscape volunteering – working with Hackney Council

We have a steady number of volunteers across these activities:

- There is a small group of volunteers for Commonwealth War Grave maintenance, who provide a rotating core group of 2 -3 people to carry out the work on a regular, weekly basis. This group has been particularly successful in maintaining the 150-plus Commonwealth War Graves in Abney Park Cemetery and building on the strong relationship the Trust has with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Litter picking sessions can attract up to 10 - 15 people, including families and groups of friends. Numbers can be smaller when the weather is less favourable.
- Landscaping volunteers (every Thursday morning) has a regular attendance of 6 volunteers each week. This represents a continually evolving group of around 20 people - as people's individual commitments and availability changes over time.

We also continue to support Hackney Council on Abney Unearthed - the project to re-map Abney Park. This aims to create an online searchable map, add missing information to the burial records, research the various residents of Abney Park and bring their stories to light. The project was funded by NLHF and Hackney Council and is now part of the Activity Plan which sits alongside the wider restoration project as described above.

Volunteer numbers have averaged around 12 - 14 people per week, as they have in previous years. Abney Unearthed has now checked the burial details of almost 87,000 people, adding 900 missing entries. They have also corrected the details, such as incorrect spelling of names, of over 1,500 people. Abney Unearthed mapping has enabled approximately 12 successful grave searches for graves that were previously unmapped.

Abney Unearthed has focused on the number of common graves on the site and the headstones of approximately 1,020 people buried in common graves have been noted. The precise number of common graves in Abney Park Cemetery is currently unknown, although the information available is steadily increasing.

Ecology Volunteers

Formed in 2023/24 the Abney Park Nature Volunteers (APNV) has over 50 members led by Kirsten Foster and supported by Trustee Martina Girvan.

As a group they support training, facilitate and undertake surveying, reporting back into national databases and generally increase the awareness of the Park for nature and healthy ecosystems.

Between the Trust and the APNV groups we have delivered a programme of nature events and surveys.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

The volunteers do a weekly butterfly 'transect' survey for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, walking the same route every week and recording the numbers and species of butterflies we see. The top count this year so far was 116 individuals of 9 species on 11 July: 1 comma, 1 brimstone, 1 large skipper, 2 holly blue, 8 red admiral, 8 large white, 11 speckled wood, 41 green-veined white and 43 small white.

They also do a monthly transect counting bumblebees – as well as certain solitary and honeybees – for Bumblebee Conservation. The results of these have been disappointing this year, with mostly 3-4 species being counted on each walk, and low numbers of individuals of each species. We suspect there is a problem with lack of forage sources for insects in Abney Park. A possibly-too severe programme of strimming and leaf blowing has left path edges, where most flowers would bloom, in a barren, dusty and sad state. On some transects you could count the number of flowers available for bees to feed from on one hand.

A popular activity is our after-dark bat walks, kindly led by volunteer Angela Clare. We usually see the impressive acrobatics of soprano and common pipistrelles zig-zagging against the dusk sky, and pick up hints of other species on our bat detectors, which turn the echolocation signals of these unique mammals into an almost musical series of clicks. It will soon be bat hibernation season, so look out for news of walks starting up again next spring.

Fundraising

The Trust remains incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed financially to its work. This includes generous donations from across our community.

We have maintained our CAF donation page, initially started in May 2020, and we have received a steady stream of small donations throughout the year. This has totalled over £4,500 over the year for one-off donations, direct debits and Gift Aid.

We are extremely grateful for the sponsorship of the Radical Writers series to the tune of a generous £500 donation from Stoke Newington butchers Meat N16.

The Trust has not sought additional fundraising in this period for projects or new initiatives. From early 2024 and throughout this reporting period we have been able to begin planning events dedicated to fundraising in the new premises. In June 2025, subsequent to the reporting period, the Trust was awarded a grant by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters for the restoration of James Braidwood's memorial.

Board composition

The Board remains very strong and with less transition this year than in the previous periods. A recruitment campaign for new Trustees began in February 2024. Four new Trustees were recruited to commence their work with the Board in 2024/25. As with previous recruitments these have brought in new skills and experience.

In terms of Board size and composition we need to balance:

- Core resilience on the Board
- Capacity to dedicate to focused committees or projects
- A range of skills including fundraising, charity administration, engagement and governance
- Greater 'volunteering' capacity, for example to steward a growing programme of events

Vacancies are now arising (autumn 2025) and we will be commencing a recruitment of new Trustees after a skills audit was completed in September 2025.

Membership and Governance Review

Abney Park Trust has a robust yet complex constitution for a small volunteer run charity. In the last few years the Trust has strengthened leadership and governance with a transparent and open approach which includes open recruitment to our Board, an open AGM and the publication of more about our work.

It is a matter of public record that we have intended to look at membership for some time and external interest in this has increased, particularly from the newly invigorated Abney Park User Group. We have therefore conducted a review of the potential models and of our membership lists. Our way forward was set out on 18th

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Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

September 2025, inviting comments before final decisions are made. In summary, and subject to consideration of any representations we receive, the Trust plans to:

- Create a limited no fee corporate membership model for organisations that are aligned with the charitable objectives of Abney Park Trust, thereby increasing the connections that the Trust has with aligned organisations. This will include offering the Abney Park User Group a corporate membership.
- Publish a business plan and seek endorsement of this plan at the Annual General Meeting in November.
- Complete the refresh of the Trust website to provide better more accessible information about Abney Park and Abney Park Trust.
- Explore a "Friends of" model for future fundraising following Hackney Council's decision to cancel the core grant (£22k in 2024/5) that we have relied on for over ten years.
- Commence recruitment of at least one new Trustee with a focus on skills including grant and other funding, IT and ecology. This follows a period of natural turnover and a recent skills audit of current Trustees.
- Develop a new model for Events planning and delivery, seeking active volunteers to be part of our exciting 2026/27 programme.

Looking ahead

Writing in early autumn 2025, we are at another pivot point in the Trust's journey after an amazing eighteen months since reopening of the park.

We have adjusted successfully to the new set up and partnerships and we have, as this annual report shows, achieved some amazing delivery of our charitable objectives including a wide range of community benefits.

We have a steady state model involving the employment of one outstanding member of staff. That allows us to achieve our key aims. The challenges remain financially to expand and do even more. The National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Activity Plan' grant funding was time-limited. And now that Hackney Council has withdrawn the core grant we have relied on for years, we are now operating a very lean model. The good news is we have financial reserves that mean there is no imminent threat to the Trust's sustainability and we are finding ways to increase our income. The next step is to develop a medium term business and funding strategy.

The current limitations do mean there is no imminent prospect of further recruitment, but the Board may take a view that it is necessary to invest upfront to expand our income.

As we noted last year, we will also continue to push for a greater focus on the park's ecological status and we are optimistic that the council will take steps to do more here, balancing all the different demands on the park as part of the management plan. We await the Woodland & Ecological Management Plan's launch and look forward to working with the Council's ecology and parks officers to support the vital preservation of this rare habitat.

We also look forward to continuing to work with the newly refreshed and reformed Abney Park User Group. It was a pleasure to invite them to a recent Board meeting and listen carefully to their representations and ideas.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial result

The Trust continues to manage its finances to effectively balance its income and expenses, looking to continue the good progress towards becoming self-financing. The net income for the year was £16,622, well up on the previous year's net income of £505. This will be challenged by reduced grant funding in future years, but the broadening of the income-generating activities in the year provides the trustees with comfort over this.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (continued)

Income more than doubled in the year to £86,935 from £41,613. There were a number of components to this increase, with the largest being an increase in grants from the London Borough of Hackney. While the core grant remained stable there was an additional grant of £25,800 for specific additional activities to be performed to improve the work of Abney Park Trust. This will reduce in the following year. Additionally, the core grant will reduce in future years due to changes in the grant-giving landscape for Hackney Council.

While other donations decreased in the year, to £4,627 from £6,661, other sources of non-grant income either remained broadly stable (grave searches and guided tours) or saw an increase (shop income). The theatre events schedule brought in additional revenue of £16,666, which represents an encouraging additional income stream that wasn't in place the previous year.

Alongside the increase in income in the year, there has been a related increase in expenditure, with the staff time required to raise non-core funds continuing to be significant. With the additional costs of holding events, the costs of raising funds were £23,105, up from £14,723. The expenditure on charitable activities increased to £46,668 from £26,385.

Reserves

Our reserves remain healthy for a charity of our scale. Given the backdrop of the known reductions in Grant Income, for at least the short-term, the Trust monitors the level of unrestricted funds against the desire to maintain current activity levels for the foreseeable future, alongside the aim to diversify sources of funding to allow for additional activities. On a more formal basis, the Trust retains reserve funds sufficient to finance core activities for three months and other exceptional costs including redundancies if all existing income streams were to cease.

The Trust monitors liquidity on a regular basis, with all funds being held in immediately accessible bank accounts, one of which is interest bearing.

Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (Continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

The trustees (who are also the directors of Abney Park Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a.) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b.) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c.) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d.) state whether applicable accounting standard comprising FRS 102 and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- e.) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

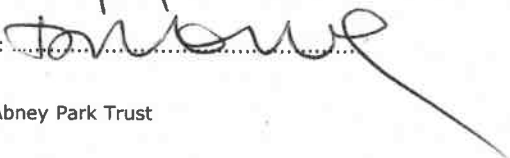
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies provision statement:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity and signed on its behalf:

Approved by the Directors on the 28/10/2025

Signed on behalf of the Board : 

Name : Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Abney Park Trust on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2025 set out on pages 16 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of Abney Park Trust (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Abney Park Trust are not required to be audited 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 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of NAME OF THE COMPANY as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
The Grain Store
Hills Barns
Appledram Lane South
Chichester, West Sussex
PO20 7EG

Sign: 

Date: 29.10.2025

ABNEY PARK TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2a & 10	8,627	47,800	56,427	32,661
Charitable activities	2b	24,866	-	24,866	7,266
Other trading activities	2c	4,610	-	4,610	1,236
Investment Income : Bank interest	2d	492	-	492	450
		38,595	47,800	86,395	41,613
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	3 & 4	-109	23,214	23,105	14,723
Charitable Activities	3, 4, 10	19,592	27,076	46,668	26,385
		19,483	50,290	69,773	41,108
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)		19,112	-2,490	16,622	505
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		19,112	-2,490	16,622	505
Transfers between funds	10	-3,918	3,918	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		15,194	1,428	16,622	505
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total Funds Brought Forward		52,568	-	52,568	52,063
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		67,762	1,428	69,190	52,568

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02634036
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-25 Total £	31-Mar-24 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	6	-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	528	-	528	182
Cash at bank and in hand	8	69,110	1,428	70,538	54,527
Total Current Assets		69,638	1,428	71,066	54,709
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	1,876	-	1,876	2,141
NET CURRENT ASSETS		67,762	1,428	69,190	52,568
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		67,762	1,428	69,190	52,568
NET ASSETS		67,762	1,428	69,190	52,568
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds	10	67,762	-	67,762	52,568
Restricted Funds	10	-	1,428	1,428	-
Total Funds		67,762	1,428	69,190	52,568

For the year ending 31st March 2025 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

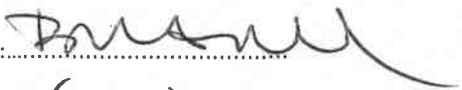
Directors' responsibility:

1. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006; and
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 16 and 17 were approved by the directors, and authorised for issue on:

Date: 28/10/2025

Signed and approved by on behalf of all the Directors: 

Print name : TDM WALKER (CHAIR)

**ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Statutory information

Abney Park Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. The registered office address and principal place of business is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH.

1.2

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Abney Park Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.3 Income

Income is accounted for when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

1.5 Stock

Stock is measured at the lower of original purchase cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date. Stock is excluded from the balance sheet, as the year end balance is immaterial.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Stage:	33% Straight line
Office equipment:	25% Straight line
Furniture and fittings:	25% Straight line

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Financial Instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exception of any prepayments and deferred income, all debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Association and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.11 Employee benefits

Short Term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

1.12 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is written off as incurred.

1.13 Areas of critical judgement & estimation

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.14 Volunteer time

The Charity works with a number of volunteers who help conserve and improve the landscape at Abney Park. The contribution of this time has not been included in income in the financial statements as the value of this time cannot be reliably measured.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
a) Donations and Legacies				
London Borough of Hackney	-	22,000	22,000	22,000
London Borough of Hackney - Activity Plan	-	25,800	25,800	-
Commonwealth				
War Graves Commission	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Donations including Gift Aid	4,627	-	4,627	6,661
	8,627	47,800	56,427	32,661
b) Charitable Activities				
Grave search & maintenance	2,296	-	2,296	2,021
Guided tours	4,893	-	4,893	5,245
Theatre and & Performance	16,666	-	16,666	-
Fayres	1,011	-	1,011	-
	24,866	-	24,866	7,266
c) Other Trading Activities				
Other Income	921	-	921	118
Shop Income	3,689	-	3,689	1,118
	4,610	-	4,610	1,236
d) Investment income				
Bank interest	492	-	492	450
	492	-	492	450

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

CURRENT YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	TOTAL 2025 £
Raising Funds	14,412	5,529	3,164	23,105
Charitable activities	20,588	16,587	9,493	46,668
	35,000	22,116	12,657	69,773

Direct Staff Costs are detailed in Note 5. Support costs are detailed in Note 4.a, Direct Costs are detailed in Note 4.b.
£38,117 of restricted funds were used for Direct Staff costs.

PRIOR YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	TOTAL 2024 £
Raising Funds	11,317	766	2,641	14,723
Charitable activities	16,167	2,297	7,922	26,385
	27,483	3,062	10,563	41,108

4.a) SUPPORT COSTS

Notes

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance costs:				
Independent examination	-	556	556	600
Other support costs:				
Staff costs	0	6,176	6,176	4,850
Telephone and internet	-	607	607	563
Website	-	630	630	576
Insurance	-	290	290	523
Travelling	-	18	18	-
Small IT equipment	-	937	937	393
Other office costs	-	502	502	556
Accountancy	626	493	1,119	1,107
Marketing	-	962	962	812
Depreciation	-	-	-	264
Bank charges	107	-	107	68
Transaction fees	753	-	753	251
	1,486	11,171	12,657	10,563

4. b) DIRECT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Stock purchases	2,450	-	2,450	634
Events, Tours and Workshops	11,921	6,693	18,614	2,061
Other direct costs	637	415	1,052	367
	15,008	7,108	22,116	3,062

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

5. DIRECT STAFF COST AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and all members of staff. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £41,176 (2024: £32,333).

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or the previous year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year of £157 for administrative costs (2024: 1 trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £388).

	2025	2024
The aggregate payroll costs were:	£	£
Wages and salaries	39,912	31,391
Employer's pension contributions	1,264	942
	<u>41,176</u>	<u>32,333</u>

To reflect Direct Staff Cost across the various activities of the employees in the year, 15% of Direct Staff Cost is included in Note 4 / Staff cost, and the 85% is included in Note 3 / Current year/ Direct Staff costs.

From the total Direct Staff Cost £38,117 was spent from the Activity Plan (£19,318) and LBH grant (£18,799) restricted funds.

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Particulars of employees:

The maximum number of employees in the year was 3.(2024: 2)

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Stage	Short	Office	Furniture	Total
	£	Leasehold	Equipment	& Fittings	£
Cost		£	£	£	
At 1 April 2024	3,000	-	1,055	-	4,055
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,055</u>
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	3,000	-	1,055	-	4,055
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,055</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-	-	-

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Fund	Fund	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£	£	£
Prepayments	528	-	528	182
	<u>528</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>182</u>

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Fund	Fund	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	69,110	1,428	70,538	54,527
	<u>69,110</u>	<u>1,428</u>	<u>70,538</u>	<u>54,527</u>

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-25 £	Total 31-Mar-24 £
Accruals	516	-	516	620
Independent Examiners Fees	1,230	-	1,230	1,200
PAYE & Pension Liability	-	-	-	321
Deferred Income	130	-	130	-
	1,876	-	1,876	2,141

10. FUNDS

CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD					
	Balance 31-Mar-24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Balance 31-Mar-25 £
Restricted funds:					
Activity Plan	-	25,800	-24,372	-	1,428
London Borough Hackney	-	22,000	-25,918	3,918	-
Total restricted Funds	-	47,800	-50,290	3,918	1,428
General Funds	52,568	38,595	-19,483	-5,449	66,231
Total funds	52,568	86,395	-69,773	-1,531	67,659

PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD					
	Balance 31-Mar-23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Balance 31-Mar-24 £
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney:					
London Borough Hackney	-	22,000	-22,000	-	-
Total restricted Funds	-	22,000	-22,000	-	-
General Funds	52,063	19,613	-19,108	-	52,568
Total funds	52,063	41,613	-41,108	-	52,568

Activity Plan - an arrangement with London Borough of Hackney to provide a series of planned activities following the refurbishment. The Activity Plan runs Jan 2024 - Dec 2025.

London Borough of Hackney grant: used to contribute for the direct staff cost of the project coordinator and running cost related to marketing, event costs etc.

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	67,762	1,428	69,190
	67,762	-	69,190

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - Continued
PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	52,568	-	52,568
	52,568	-	52,568

12. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME			
Donations and legacies	10,661	22,000	32,661
Charitable activities	7,266	-	7,266
Other trading activities	1,236	-	1,236
Investments: Bank interest	450	-	450
TOTAL INCOME	19,613	22,000	41,613
EXPENDITURE			
Raising funds	14,723	-	14,723
Charitable Activities	4,385	22,000	26,385
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,108	22,000	41,108
Net income / Net movement in funds	505	-	505
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balances brought forward	52,063	-	52,063
Balances carried forward	52,568	-	52,568

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1005334

Accounts

ABNEY PARK TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2024**

CHARITY REGISTRATION No. 1005334

COMPANY REGISTRATION No. 02634036

Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2
The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

ABNEY PARK TRUST
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Page 17	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 18	Balance Sheet
Pages 19 to 24	Notes to the Financial Statements

ABNEY PARK TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1005334

COMPANY NUMBER 2634036

START OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 1st April 2023

END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 31st March 2024

TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2024
Tom Walker (Chair)
Martina Girvan
Carol Goldwag
John McShane
Elinor Roberts
Nicholas Toner
Brooke Louise McKinnis

In addition, representative of Hackney Council on the Board:
Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
The South Lodge
Abney Park
London
N16 0LH

GOVERNING DOCUMENT
MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED 1ST AUGUST 1991 AS AMENDED BY
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION ON CHANGE OF NAME
DATED 4 JUNE 2008, ALSO AMENDED ON 5 FEBRUARY 2012

BANKERS
HSBC
312 Seven Sisters Road
Finsbury Park
London
N4 2AW

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Abney Park Trust

Trustees' Annual Report – 2023/24



Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity

Abney Park Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 2634036) and a registered charity (registered number 1005334). The Trustees are also Directors of the company.

The Trust is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and its registered office is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High St, London N16 0LH.

The governance and management of the Trust is provided by the Board of Trustees elected by the members and operating in accordance with the articles of association.

The Trust advertises for new trustees when these are required. Between Annual General Meetings, potential new Trustees submit their CV and reasons for wanting to be a Trustee. They are then interviewed by two current Trustees, the Chair, and, if considered suitable, a recommendation is made to the rest of the Board who will then decide whether or not to appoint them. They are then formally put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Trustees are made by nomination from the London Borough of Hackney.

The Trust sends new Trustees an induction pack of documents relating to the Trust (including the governing document and the policies and procedures in place) and Charity Commission guidance on the duties of charity Trustees. The Trust also invites new Trustees to observe the meetings of the Board and spend time at Abney Park with staff members.

Abney Park is a 32-acre park in Stoke Newington in the London Borough of Hackney (Hackney Council). It was formerly a garden cemetery and includes densely wooded grounds based on a Victorian arboretum. It also contains operational buildings, listed historic monuments, tens of thousands of memorials, and a recently restored Grade II listed funerary chapel which is Europe's oldest surviving non-denominational chapel. Abney has significant historical, religious, genealogical, museum/archival, ecological and architectural importance.

Abney Park:

- is a registered Historic Park and Garden, Brown Plaque site, and part of the Stoke Newington Conservation Area
- has a number of listed monuments and buildings
- is a designated statutory Local Nature Reserve, the first such reserve in Hackney and
- has received a significant National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to restore the premises and improve access to the park

The Trust occupies Abney Park under a Licence to Occupy from Hackney Council. The arrangement between the Trust and Hackney Council is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

Trust management

Details on the Trust's Board composition and staffing position are later in this report.

In the period covered by this report we have moved to one active subcommittee. Our committees are made up of Trust staff, Trustees and volunteers with expertise in relevant fields.

The subcommittees meet regularly and report to the APT Board at each meeting.

Events Committee

Our Events Committee manages the Trust's busy programme of events. They also discuss and coordinate any event proposals that come in from external organisations.

Committee members for the reporting period: Irena Goldwag (Trustee), Haydn Schaare (APT staff), Nick Toner (Trustee), Lorraine Tillet (Volunteer and former Trustee), Ellie Roberts (Trustee) and Martina Girvan (Trustee).

The second subcommittee, the Fundraising Committee, has been dormant in the reporting period.

Risk assessment

A comprehensive risk register was introduced in 2021/22. The main risks during the year have revolved around:

- **Future role and purpose** - the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid will change our operating model and will require new priorities. As in 2021/22 and 2022/23 this year has seen ongoing comprehensive work across the site with a change in the previous office premises, access to the park and an increase in general uncertainty. The work to establish a stable position with Hackney Council is progressing well. Towards the end of March 2024, a new steady state position was beginning to emerge.
- **The Abney Park site** - there are hazards that mean that the public could be at risk. Both Hackney Council and Trust have insurance covering this risk and we work closely with the police to help ensure safety. We maintain a crisis communications plan in case of serious reputational risk.
- **Grant funding and financial stability** - our major grants are secured annually, and this means we have to take a prudent approach to financing projects, particularly in a time of continued financial uncertainty including in the public sector. The ongoing restoration work has limited opportunities in the first half of the reporting year.
- **Safeguarding** - as a public site with some history of anti-social behaviour we maintain a high level of vigilance and adherence to safeguarding good practice, particularly for our in person events and those involving families. This includes regular liaison with the council and neighbourhood police.
- **Pressure on staff and trustees** - the Trust has a small but busy staff team, and a high reliance on volunteers and trustees. We have Trustee succession plans in place and offer staff regular opportunities to communicate their needs and challenges.

Abney Park Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the Trust

The objects for which the Trust is established, as set out in its articles of association, are:

1. The conservation and restoration for the benefit of the public of the property known as Abney Park or Abney Park Cemetery (Abney) as an area of architectural and ecological significance, and historical and religious associations.
2. To promote the benefit of inhabitants of London and in particular the Borough of Hackney without distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
3. The advancement of public education by the establishment and display of a collection or collections of information literature manuscripts and artefacts concerning the history, development, associations and ecology of the cemetery.

The work of the Trust

The Trust works to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives, which includes promoting Abney as an inner-city heritage and community resource. This involves:

- Meeting with Hackney Council's Abney Park Manager and staff regularly to discuss the management of the site and Trust activities.
- Meeting regularly on the sub-committees to consider and progress areas of the Trust's work.
- Developing projects for improving the site and preserving its monuments.
- Organising events and tours for the public on site - both free and ticketed.
- Continuing to look for ways to involve more of the community in Abney and to make it more sustainable.
- Maintaining a programme for volunteers and actively promoting these volunteering opportunities.
- Carrying out grave searches and maintenance working closely with families and friends of those buried in Abney Park.

The Trust is also a member of the Abney Park Development Board set up by Hackney Council to secure funding for Abney through a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid and decide on the future development of Abney. That Board helps oversee the development of the project and was superseded by new arrangements in early 2024.

The Trust's relationship with the Council is enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on 2 February 2024 and is available on our website.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

Activities during 2023/2024

This has remained a transitional year for the Trust with considerable progress to a 'new normal' in the final part of the period with the conclusion of the restoration works.

The following activities were carried out throughout the year to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives:

Events and engagement

Our events and engagement continued 'in person' events in 2023/24 finally moving on from the shadow of COVID 19.

With the building works the site has continued to be more limited in terms of access and use. This has not inhibited the range of talks and walks we put on, but has meant that the larger events the Trust ran before 2020 have not yet been possible (for example the Summer and Winter Fayres and the summer theatre productions). At the time of writing we are beginning to do more of this in 2024/25.

Despite these restrictions – and thanks to our fantastic staff and volunteers – we have populated a wide-ranging programme of events.

There are key dates in the Abney calendar including celebrating the anniversary of Abney Park's opening in May, inviting Hackney MP Diane Abbott to commemorate Bronterre O'Brien in Sept, and Remembrance Sunday in November. Alongside these we put on a range of regular tours as well as developing new collaborations and partnerships, including a series of women's history tours with Sue Doe from Hackney Society, a cycle of seasonal walks with Nina Lovelace from Hackney Outdoors and hosting an experiential nature walk with the Walking Trees collective.

In terms of events, we held 55 events over the year, with a total number of attendees of 1638.

Category by category our events were as follows:

- History and heritage = 29
- Wellbeing, ritual and mental health = 8
- Ecology and nature = 13
- Community events and open days = 4
- Annual general meeting = 1

The first half of 2023-24 was a continuation of our programming to engage the local community with the heritage and ecology of Abney Park through outdoor events. In August, we appointed a new member of staff as Events, Community Engagement and Programming Manager. This enabled us to develop our programming, and begin work on the NHLF funded Activity Plan. In Feb 2024 we gained access to the Chapel and began programming events there.

We hosted six Chapel tours across one day in February, giving over 240 people the opportunity to see inside the newly restored Chapel for the first time. This began an ongoing series of monthly Chapel tours, including an Open House event with a book swap for World Book Day in March 2024 which attracted 340 visitors.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

Highlights from 2023-24 included:

- 17 different history tours (among several other history and heritage events), including 3 sold out after dark walking tours exploring Abney's supernatural literary connections with our longstanding collaborator Alan Gartrell, and 3 new women's history tours from Sue Doe.
- A new series of 'Wheel of the Year' tree walks which wove together seasonal traditions and folklore with herbalism, ending with crafting with natural materials. These brought in a younger, more diverse audience and we had positive feedback from people enjoying connecting with nature and each other.
- A sold out botanical drawing event, which we have developed into one of our activity plan events in the community room for 2024-25.
- More programming for young people with a fully booked outdoor family forest school event, and storytelling in the Chapel for local families and nurseries as part of the Activity Plan.
- Over 100 attendees for our Remembrance Day memorial service in November with music from two local choirs.
- A fully booked New Year's Day nature connection walk to promote wellbeing.
- Breeding birds training to support ongoing surveys of our bird population as well as dawn chorus bird walks and a family event for Bird Watch weekend in January.
- Tours for 510 children and teachers from William Patten Primary school to mark International Women's Day in March 2024.

Underpinning all this is the work of the Events Committee which met regularly.

Online and digital presence

We have continued to update a microsite with a repository of key information about the National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration project. This includes key documents and, where available, information for the public about the works.

We also continued to use social media actively both to promote the park, engage the community and forge new collaborations. We have made many new links this way and get interest from across the UK, and occasionally from abroad.

We produce a regular short email bulletin which is sent every 6 weeks or so to over 2,000 subscribers. Since September 2021 it has included an update from the Trust Chair and these updates are included in the news pages on our website.

In total we received 68,282 users to our website in this period which is a percentage increase of around 9.8% versus the same period last year. This increase was welcome and likely reflects the renewed interest in the park as a result of the restoration.

Grave searches

One of our most important roles is offering a grave search facility for those looking for relatives, friends or historic figures. Our team responds to these questions with dedication and compassion.

Abney Park Trust received in the region of 149 enquiries about grave searches and burial records from relatives of those buried in Abney Park in 2023/24. Approximately 49 of these, where the records allowed, led to a full grave search. Although we do ask for a grave search fee, if people are unable to afford the service, or are able to give a smaller donation, we will still carry the search out. It is important for APT to carry out this service and grave search appointments help us to give people further information about their family member's burial and how Abney Park was as a working cemetery. As well as this, we also learn about the people buried in Abney Park.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

The grave search includes APT members of staff physically locating the grave site and either supporting the family to view the site or providing pictures and a copy of the burial records kept by the cemetery. This is never a straightforward process given the nature of the site and the often haphazard approach to burials during the 1960s and 70s.

If the grave cannot be found APT staff will provide whatever information is available as well as background about the development of the site as a cemetery.

The African Caribbean community in Hackney is predominantly represented in burials during the 1960s and 70s - reflecting the local community at that time, when the site was nearing the end of the period as a functioning cemetery.

Monument maintenance and restoration

We have remained focused on promoting the history and stories of Abney Park.

During the reporting year we maintained our commitment to cleaning and maintaining the Commonwealth War Graves on the site, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We maintain both individual Commonwealth War Graves and also the Commonwealth War Memorial at the heart of the park. We are very grateful for the grant funding we receive from the CWGC to support this work.

We have continued contact with the CWGC throughout 2023/24 and planned the Remembrance Day memorial service on the War Memorial, at which Cllr Bramble gave an inspiring speech, local choirs sang and the Last Post was played. Staff and volunteers pay particular attention to the war graves during May and November and work hard to ensure every grave looks as good as possible.

In relation to listed monuments in the park, we have prepared a preliminary assessment of work needed to maintain or repair a dozen listed monuments. We hope in the medium term to secure funding for these monuments.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Restoration project

In January 2020 Hackney Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a major programme of restoration work for the park and its amenities. This is a huge opportunity for the park and we are grateful for many of our predecessors who campaigned over many years to protect and save the park.

Although the Trust is not directly accountable for the project we are hugely impacted by it and have worked actively with Hackney Council to make it a success.

In this reporting period, the work continued on site, completing in early 2024. This is a profound change to the park and has seen a visible impact, for example:

- Closure and removal of existing offices and site clearance
- Entrances closed at different points over the year, limiting access
- Ground works, leading to major construction of new community facilities
- Full restoration of the chapel
- Reopening of the Church Street entrance in December 2022
- Reopening of the restored chapel early 2024
- Full access to both entrances permanently restored in early 2024
- Reopening of offices
- Completion of new buildings and café awaiting occupation March 2024

This year we have participated fully in negotiation with the council (for example in sitting on the tender panel for the café operators) and we have provided information to the public about what is happening on site, using #AbneyRestoration on social media and our own microsite pages.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

This is and has been a fantastic opportunity for Abney Park to become a major London landmark when the works are completed.

Although the work is very disruptive for the Trust, we have continued to meet our charitable objectives with real determination and flexibility.

In this period, we have also ramped up our preparations for the delivery of the "Activity Plan", mainly through regular meetings with Hackney Council staff to refine the plans and develop a thorough understanding of our audience engagement objectives.

The Activity Plan complements the capital works that have gone on in the park by providing funding from the NLHF to help bring new audiences through the doors and into the newly restored spaces. It's a series of events, workshops, programmes and other work due to be delivered over a period of around two years, and covers everything from community celebrations to arts, craft and life skills. It sits alongside our regular programme of events.

In this reporting period the Plan was just getting underway and the activities included birdwatch surveys and school visits. We look forward to a busy year for the Activity Plan in the next reporting period, including further interesting events reaching diverse audiences – plus accessibility improvements for our website.

PSPO Consultation

Hackney Council launched a borough wide consultation about dog behaviour and access to public spaces. Launched hurriedly in early autumn 2023 the consultation proposed that as a local nature reserve and cemetery that dogs should be required to be on a lead to access Abney Park.

This proved to be hugely controversial.

The Trust supported the proposals in the consultation and sought to publish reasons and evidence for the proposal. The issue mobilised significant concerns on all sides of the debate and a very strong campaign against the proposal. In February 2024 the council decided to drop the proposal noting that the issues that had led to the proposal (damage to the site) were of real concern. The Trust looks forward to working with the council to find ways to address those issues, recognising that elected politicians have to balance evidence and opinion in the community. The work of our ecology volunteer group is updated below.

Staffing

In terms of staffing, we employed two part-time members of staff throughout the year.

In August we appointed a candidate into the role of Events, Community Engagement and Programming Manager, a newly shaped role. Given the unpredictable environment and the desire for a qualified self-starter the Trust found a balance between the salary and available hours. We were pleased to receive some very strong applications and that we were able to offer the role to a talented and passionate local resident. They started in post in August 2024. This means we have a team of two part time individuals who both devote considerable discretionary effort beyond the contracted hours to deliver for the Trust.

Our team have continued to work very closely with Hackney Council's full time on site manager with further appointments to be made including to manage the chapel as an events venue and a volunteer coordinator. The Trust has been pleased to be part of the recruitment processes involved in key Hackney Council appointments, as well as the tender process for the new cafe and premises management.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

Volunteer support

We rely on volunteers to support the maintenance of the park and the work of the Trust. We are pleased that our volunteering work has continued. This includes:

- A monthly litter pick arranged with Abney Park User Group
- Grave plot maintenance – working with Commonwealth War Grave Commission
- General landscape volunteering – working with Hackney Council

We have a steady number of volunteers across these activities:

- There is a small group of volunteers for Commonwealth War Grave maintenance, who provide a rotating core group of 2 -3 people to carry out the work on a regular, weekly basis. This group has been particularly successful in maintaining the 150-plus Commonwealth War Graves in Abney Park Cemetery and building on the strong relationship the Trust has with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Litter picking sessions can attract up to 20 people, including families and groups of friends. Numbers can be smaller when the weather is less favourable.
- Landscaping volunteers (every Thursday morning) has a regular attendance of 6 volunteers each week. This represents a continually evolving group of around 20 people - as people's individual commitments and availability changes over time.

We also continue to support Hackney Council on Abney Unearthed - the project to re-map Abney Park. This aims to create an online searchable map, add missing information to the burial records, research the various residents of Abney Park and bring their stories to light. The project was funded by NLHF and Hackney Council and is now part of the Activity Plan which sits alongside the wider restoration project as described above.

Volunteer numbers have averaged around 12 - 16 people per week, as they have in previous years. Abney Unearthed has now checked the burial details of almost 87,000 people, adding 860 missing entries. They have also corrected the details, such as incorrect spelling of names, of over 1500 people. Abney Unearthed mapping has enabled approximately 12 successful grave searches for graves that were previously unmapped.

Abney Unearthed has focused on the number of common graves on the site and the headstones of approximately 790 people buried in common graves have been noted. The precise number of common graves in Abney Park Cemetery is currently unknown, although the information available is steadily increasing.

Ecology Volunteers

Our Abney Park Nature Volunteers has over 50 members led by Kirsten Foster and supported by Trustee Martina Girvan. As a group they support training, facilitate and undertake surveying, reporting back into national databases and generally increase the awareness of the Park for nature and healthy ecosystems.

Between the Trust and the Abney Park Nature Volunteers groups we have delivered a great annual programme of nature events and surveys.

We have received training for undertaking butterfly transects from the Big City Butterflies conservation group run by Steve Bolton and Breeding Bird Surveys by David Darrell Lambert of Birdbrain Britain. [GM3]

We run an annual programme of events. In 2023 we surveyed the Park's habitats using the National Vegetation Classification system and created an Abney Park Plant Spotter. We undertook a series of butterfly transects throughout the summer including our annual participation in the Big Butterfly Count 2023, building upon the training by Steve Bolton. We hosted a botanical drawing workshop in June followed up by a Loddiges tree survey and a bat walk in October. We have welcomed what appear to be breeding sparrow hawks into the Park this year.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

On New Years Day 2024 we delivered an Ecology Talk, focusing on the complex ecosystems supported by Abney Park with over 40 attendees on site, where we also promoted and participated in the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI's) New Year Plant Hunt. At the end of January, we partook in our annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, our annual fungal survey, followed by Breeding Bird Survey training in March.

We are looking forward to inputting into the Woodland Management Plan being written by Hackney Council. We continue to raise awareness that the Park is a Local Nature Reserve that hosts some very rare invertebrate and fungal species as well as being a critical refuge for all sorts of wildlife in what is an extremely urban environment.

The quality of the habitat is also critical to the amenity value of the Park and the other ecosystem services it delivers such as passive cooling and carbon sequestration, although this quality element may not be directly measured or noted it is absolutely perceived and does make a difference to the resilience of the Park. For the Park to remain a quality and resilient habitat its management must be invested in to secure this invaluable refuge for the future.

Fundraising

The Trust remains incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed financially to its work. This includes generous donations from across our community.

We have maintained our CAF donation page, initially started in May 2020, and we have received a steady stream of small donations throughout the year. This has totalled £3,918.75 over the year for one-off donations, direct debits and gift aid.

The Trust has not sought additional fundraising in this period for projects or new initiatives. From early 2024 we have been able to begin planning events dedicated to fundraising in the new premises.

Board composition

The Board remains very strong and with less transition this year than in the previous periods. A recruitment campaign for new Trustees began in February 2024. Four new Trustees were recruited to commence their work with the Board in 2024/25. As with previous recruitments these have brought in new skills and experience.

The Board will grow in size, that will enable us to have core resilience on the Board.

- More capacity to dedicate to focused committees or projects
- A range of new skills including fundraising, charity administration, engagement and governance
- Greater 'volunteering' capacity, for example to steward a growing programme of events

Looking ahead

Writing in mid-summer 2024, we are able to look ahead with some confidence after four years of disruption and transition.

We have new premises, a welcoming environment and access to the community space and chapel to put on events. The park itself should become self-financing with revenues from weddings and other Hackney events ringfenced for the park's use. New businesses now occupy the workshops, the café is open and being run by an independent provider and London Green Wood have returned to the site.

We are confident about those opportunities and the role Hackney Council sees for The Trust. Our advantages as a small charity mean we can mobilise community input and funding that is complementary to taxpayer investment. We have already opened up the chapel to hundreds of people and run new events with new collaborators including some brilliant fundraising events in May 2024.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

If budget allows, we will bring in a further team member or expand the hours available to our team and allow us to operate at full speed.

We will also continue to push for a greater focus on the park's ecological status and we are optimistic that the council will take steps to do more here, balancing all the different demands on the park as part of the management plan. The PSPO consultation has been a reminder of how the park is seen by different user groups and the need to find a balance.

We also look forward to working with the newly refreshed and reformed Abney Park User Group.

The Trust had hoped to review the articles and membership model of the Trust to modernise and simplify them, and to broaden our base of supporters and help ensure the Trust is representative in its work. This is a work in progress and an update will be provided to the AGM.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance

The Trust continues to manage its finances effectively. Overall, the Trust has maintained good progress towards becoming self-financing.

Non-core income this year represents 47% of the overall income of the Trust, down 8% from 55% last year. Sources of income other than the London Borough of Hackney core grant are:

Charitable activities: 17% of income (up 12% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

Trading activities: 3% of income (same as prior year percentage - see note 2 for a breakdown)

Donations & legacies: 16% of income (down 22% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

Other grants: 10% of income (up 1% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

The staff time required to raise non-core funds continues to be significant. The cost of fundraising represents 36% of our total expenditure, double the prior year percentage, with the remaining 64% spent on charitable activities, a decrease of 17% of expenditure spent on charitable activities in comparison with the previous year.

Reserves policy

Our reserves remain healthy. The Trust retains reserve funds sufficient to finance core activities for three months and other exceptional costs including redundancies if existing income streams were to cease.

Reserves are held in an interest-bearing deposit account.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

The trustees (who are also the directors of Abney Park Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a.) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b.) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c.) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d.) state whether applicable accounting standard comprising FRS 102 and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- e.) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Small companies provision statement:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements were approved by the trustees, also directors of the charity on:

Date : 29 October 2024

Signed on behalf of the Board :



Name : Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Abney Park Trust on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2024 set out on pages 17 to 24.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

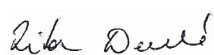
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Sign: 

Date: 30.10.2024

ABNEY PARK TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Incorporating income and expenditure account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2a & 10	10,661	22,000	32,661	41,246
Charitable activities	2b	7,266	-	7,266	2,343
Other trading activities	2c	1,236	-	1,236	1,288
Investment Income : Bank interest	2d	450	-	450	114
TOTAL		19,613	22,000	41,613	44,991
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	3 & 4	14,723	-	14,723	15,413
Charitable Activities	3, 4, 10	4,385	22,000	26,385	29,718
TOTAL		19,108	22,000	41,108	45,131
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)		505	-	505	-140
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		505	-	505	-140
Transfers between funds	10	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		505	-	505	-140
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total Funds Brought Forward		52,063	-	52,063	52,203
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		52,568	-	52,568	52,063

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02634036
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-24 Total £	31-Mar-23 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	6	-	-	-	264
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	182	-	182	69
Cash at bank and in hand	8	54,527	-	54,527	53,056
Total Current Assets		54,709	-	54,709	53,125
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	2,141	-	2,141	1,326
NET CURRENT ASSETS		52,568	-	52,568	51,799
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		52,568	-	52,568	52,063
NET ASSETS		52,568	-	52,568	52,063
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds	10	52,568	-	52,568	52,063
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	-	-
Total Funds		52,568	-	52,568	52,063

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibility:

1. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006; and
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 17 and 18 were approved by the directors, and authorised for issue on:

Date: 29 October 2024

Signed and approved by on behalf of all the Directors



Print name: TOM WALKER, CHAR

**ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Statutory information

Abney Park Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address and principal place of business is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH.

1.2 Basis of preparation:

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees have reviewed our forecasts and concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3 Income

Income is accounted for when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

1.5 Stock

Stock is measured at the lower of original purchase cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date. Stock is excluded from the balance sheet, as the year end balance is immaterial.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Stage:	33% Straight line
Office equipment:	25% Straight line
Furniture and fittings:	25% Straight line

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Financial Instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exception of any prepayments and deferred income, all debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Association and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.11 Employee benefits

Short Term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

1.12 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is written off as incurred.

1.13 Areas of critical judgement & estimation

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.14 Volunteer time

The Charity works with a number of volunteers who help conserve and improve the landscape at Abney Park. The contribution of this time has not been included in income in the financial statements as the value of this time cannot be reliably measured.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
a) Donations and Legacies				
London Borough of Hackney	-	22,000	22,000	20,214
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000
Commonwealth				
War Graves Commission	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Donations including Gift Aid	6,661	-	6,661	12,032
	10,661	22,000	32,661	41,246
b) Charitable Activities				
Grave search & maintenance	2,021	-	2,021	748
Guided tours	5,245	-	5,245	1,595
	7,266	-	7,266	2,343
c) Other Trading Activities				
Other Income	118	-	118	34
Shop Income	1,118	-	1,118	1254
	1,236	-	1,236	1,288
d) Investment income				
Bank interest	450	-	450	114
	450	-	450	114

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

CURRENT YEAR	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	TOTAL 2024 £
Raising Funds	11,317	766	2,641	14,723
Charitable activities	16,167	2,297	7,922	26,385
	27,483	3,062	10,563	41,108

Support costs are detailed in Note 4 and are allocated on the basis of direct staff costs.

PRIOR YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	TOTAL 2023 £
Raising Funds	10,514	2,024	2,876	15,413
Charitable activities	15,020	6,071	8,627	29,718
	25,533	8,095	11,503	45,131

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	600	555
	600	555
Other support costs:		
Staff costs	4,850	4,506
Telephone and internet	563	532
Website	576	543
Insurance	523	2,373
Small IT equipment	393	305
Other office costs	556	272
Subscriptions & Legal fees	-	95
Accountancy	1,107	942
Marketing	812	815
Depreciation	264	264
Bank charges	68	127
Transaction fees	251	174
	10,563	11,503

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

5. EMPLOYEE AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and all members of staff. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £32,333 (2023: £30,092).

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or the previous year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year of £388 (2023: 1 trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £120).

	2024	2023
The aggregate payroll costs were:	£	£
Wages and salaries	31,391	29,501
Employer's pension contributions	942	538
	<u>32,333</u>	<u>30,039</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Particulars of employees:

The maximum number of employees in the year was 2. (2023: 3)

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Stage	Short Leasehold	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	3,000	17,323	7,079	5,000	32,402
Disposals	-	-17,323	-6,024	-5,000	-28,347
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,055</u>
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	3,000	17,323	6,815	5,000	32,138
Charge for the year	-	-	264	-	264
Released on disposal	-	-17,323	-6,024	-5,000	-28,347
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,055</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264</u>

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 31-Mar-24	Total 31-Mar-23
	£	£	£	£
Prepayments	182	-	182	69
	<u>182</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>69</u>

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	54,527	53,056
Total	<u>54,527</u>	<u>53,056</u>

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Accruals	620	-	620	-
Independent Examiners Fees	1,200	-	1,200	1,110
PAYE & Pension Liability	321	-	321	216
	2,141	-	2,141	1,326

10. FUNDS

CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD					
	Balance 31-Mar-23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Balance 31-Mar-24 £
Restricted funds:					
London Borough Hackney	-	22,000	-22,000	-	-
Total restricted Funds	-	22,000	-22,000	-	-
General Funds	52,063	19,613	-19,108	-	52,568
Total funds	52,063	41,613	-41,108	-	52,568

PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD					
	Balance 31-Mar-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Balance 31-Mar-23 £
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney:					
London Borough Hackney	-	20,214	-20,214	-	-
Mrs Graham fund	-	5,258	-5,258	-	-
Hello Again Hackney	2,500	-	-2,633	133	-
Total restricted Funds	2,500	25,472	-28,105	133	-
General Funds	49,703	19,519	-17,026	-133	52,063
Total funds	52,203	44,991	-45,131	-	52,063

Hello Again Hackney - this grant from the London Borough of Hackney is to offer free cultural events to Hackney residents who are experiencing financial hardship or are on low incomes.

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	52,568	-	52,568
	52,568	-	52,568

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - Continued
PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	264	-	264
Net current assets	51,799	-	51,799
	52,063	-	52,063

12. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME			
Donations and legacies	15,774	25,472	41,246
Charitable activities	2,343	-	2,343
Other trading activities	1,288	-	1,288
Investments: Bank interest	114	-	114
TOTAL INCOME	19,519	25,472	44,991
EXPENDITURE			
Raising funds	15,413	-	15,413
Charitable Activities	1,613	28,105	29,718
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,026	28,105	45,131
Net income / Net movement in funds	2,493	-2,633	-140
Transfer between funds	-133	133	-
Balances brought forward	49,703	2,500	52,203
Balances carried forward	52,063	-	52,063

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1005334

Accounts

ABNEY PARK TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2023**

CHARITY REGISTRATION No. 1005334

COMPANY REGISTRATION No. 02634036

Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2
The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

ABNEY PARK TRUST
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ABNEY PARK TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1005334

COMPANY NUMBER 2634036

START OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 1st April 2022

END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 31st March 2023

TRUSTEES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Tom Walker (Chair)
Martina Girvan
Carol Goldwag
John McShane
Elinor Roberts
Alison Rulton-Reed - Resigned on 20.03.2023
Nicholas Toner
Brooke Louise McKinnis - Appointed on 01.02.2023
Kate Jones - Resigned 04.07.2022
Alison Bean - Resigned on 13.02.2023
Benjamin Pass - Resigned on 18.04.2023

In addition, two representatives of Hackney Council sit on the Board:

Felicity Jane Premru - Appointed 27.05.2022, resigned on 09.08.2023
Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas
Cllr Polly Billington - Resigned on 17.05.2022

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

The South Lodge
Abney Park
London
N16 0LH

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED 1ST AUGUST 1991 AS AMENDED BY
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION ON CHANGE OF NAME
DATED 4 JUNE 2008

BANKERS

HSBC
312 Seven Sisters Road
Finsbury Park
London
N4 2AW

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Abney Park Trust

Trustees Annual Report – 2022/23



Mrs Graham's monument unveiling, October 2022
Photo © Jannine Newman - www.janninenewman.com

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity

Abney Park Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 2634036) and a registered charity (registered number 1005334). The Trustees are also Directors of the company.

The Trust is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and its registered office is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High St, London N16 0LH.

The governance and management of the Trust is provided by the Board of Trustees elected by the members and operating in accordance with the articles of association.

The Trust advertises for new trustees when these are required. Between Annual General Meetings, potential new Trustees submit their CV and reasons for wanting to be a Trustee. They are then interviewed by two current Trustees, the Chair, and, if considered suitable, a recommendation is made to the rest of the Board who will then decide whether or not to appoint them. They are then formally put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Trustees are made by nomination from the London Borough of Hackney.

The Trust sends new Trustees an induction pack of documents relating to the Trust (including the governing document and the policies and procedures in place) and Charity Commission guidance on the duties of charity Trustees. The Trust also invites new Trustees to observe the meetings of the Board and spend time at Abney Park with staff members.

Abney Park is a 32-acre park in Stoke Newington in the London Borough of Hackney (Hackney Council). It was formerly a garden cemetery and includes densely wooded grounds based on a Victorian arboretum. It also contains operational buildings, listed historic monuments, tens of thousands of memorials, and a disused but recently stabilised Grade II listed funerary chapel which is Europe's oldest surviving non-denominational chapel. Abney has significant historical, religious, genealogical, museum/archival, ecological and architectural importance.

Abney Park:

- is a registered Historic Park and Garden, Brown Plaque site, and part of the Stoke Newington Conservation Area
- has a number of listed monuments and buildings
- is a designated statutory Local Nature Reserve, the first such reserve in Hackney

The Trust occupies Abney Park under a Licence to Occupy from Hackney Council. The arrangement between the Trust and Hackney Council is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Trust management

Details on the Trust's Board composition and staffing position are later in this report.

In the period covered by this report we have moved to one active subcommittee. Our committees are made up of Trust staff, Trustees and volunteers with expertise in relevant fields.

The subcommittees meet regularly and report to the APT Board at each meeting.

Events Committee

Our Events Committee manages the Trust's busy programme of events including both on site and online virtual events. They also discuss and coordinate any event proposals that come in from external organisations.

Committee members for the reporting period: Irena Goldwag (Trustee), Dr Romany Reagan (Volunteer, resigned from the committee 4th July 2022), Haydn Schaare (APT staff), Nick Toner (Trustee), Lorraine Tillet (Chair of Abney Park User Group), Ellie Roberts (Trustee) and Martina Girvan (Trustee).

Abney Park Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

The second subcommittee, the Fundraising Committee, has been dormant in the reporting period.

Risk assessment

A comprehensive risk register was introduced during the previous reporting period and is reviewed periodically by the Board. The main risks revolve around:

- **Future role and purpose** - the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid will change our operating model and will require new priorities. As in 2021/22 this year has seen ongoing comprehensive work across the site with a change in the previous office premises, access to the park and an increase in general uncertainty. The work to establish a stable position with Hackney Council is progressing well.
- **The Abney Park site** - there are hazards that mean that the public could be at risk. Both Hackney Council and Trust have insurance covering this risk and we work closely with the police to help ensure safety. We maintain a crisis communications plan in case of serious reputational risk.
- **Grant funding and financial stability** - our major grants are secured annually and this means we have to take a prudent approach to financing projects, particularly in a time of continued financial uncertainty. The completion of the ongoing restoration work has been delayed which has had an impact on access to Abney Park and limited our programming in this financial year, but will provide us with venues for the upcoming Activity Plan in future years, supported by funding for the delivery of this Activity Plan from NHLF.
- **Safeguarding** - as a public site with some history of anti-social behaviour we maintain a high level of vigilance and adherence to safeguarding good practice, particularly for our in person events and those involving families. This includes regular liaison with the council and neighbourhood police.
- **Pressure on staff and trustees** - the Trust has a small but busy staff team, and a high reliance on volunteers and trustees. We have Trustee succession plans in place, and offer staff regular opportunities to communicate their needs and challenges.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the Trust

The objects for which the Trust is established, as set out in its articles of association, are:

1. The conservation and restoration for the benefit of the public of the property known as Abney Park or Abney Park Cemetery (Abney) as an area of architectural and ecological significance, and historical and religious associations.
2. To promote the benefit of inhabitants of London and in particular the Borough of Hackney without distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.¹
3. The advancement of public education by the establishment and display of a collection or collections of information literature manuscripts and artefacts concerning the history, development, associations and ecology of the cemetery.

The work of the Trust

The Trust works to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives, which includes promoting Abney as an inner-city heritage and community resource. This involves:

- Meeting with Hackney Council's Abney Park Manager and staff regularly to discuss the management of the site and Trust activities.
- Meeting regularly on the sub-committees to consider and progress areas of the Trust's work.
- Developing projects for improving the site and preserving its monuments (see below).
- Organising events and tours for the public on site - both free and ticketed.

¹ The Trust is committed to extending this to all protected characteristics including age and ability.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

- Continuing to look for ways to involve more of the community in Abney and to make it more sustainable.
- Maintaining a programme for volunteers and actively promoting these volunteering opportunities.
- Operating the information centre and the shop (closed from summer 2021)
- Carrying out grave searches and maintenance working closely with families and friends of those buried in Abney Park.

The Trust is also a member of the Abney Park Development Board set up by Hackney Council to secure funding for Abney through a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid and decide on the future development of Abney. That Board now helps oversee the development of the project.

Activities during 2022/2023

In the previous two year's annual reports we have reported on the impacts of COVID 19. Happily this is no longer a focus of this report, albeit this has been a period of transition for other reasons.

The following activities were carried out throughout the year to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives:

Events and engagement

Our events and engagement returned to 'in person' events in 2022/23.

With the commencement of the building works the site has continued to be more limited in terms of access and use. This has not inhibited the range of talks and walks we put on, but has meant that the larger events the Trust ran before 2020 have not been possible (for example the Summer and Winter Fayres and the summer theatre productions).

Despite these restrictions – and thanks to our fantastic staff and volunteers – we have populated a wide-ranging programme of events.

There are key dates in the Abney calendar including the marking of the Coronation Avenue tragedy (commemorated by the Civilian War Memorial) in October, Remembrance Sunday in November and the park's opening date in May. Alongside these we put on a range of regular tours plus experiment with new collaborations and partnerships.

In terms of events, we held approximately 57 events in total, of which 17 were history-themed talks or tours, 6 were nature-themed talks or tours, 15 were culture/art-themed talks or tours, 1 was a community memorial, 2 were related to wellbeing and mental health, 4 were community stalls/open days, 11 were events held as part of our Hello Again Hackney programming, and one was our Annual General Meeting.

We sold or gave out approximately 408 tickets for these events. Community stalls, memorials and Hello Again Hackney events were not publicly ticketed or were mainly attended by people who hadn't pre-registered.

Particular highlights included:

- The annual bird walk in spring, which was a sell out
- Multiple Abney Unearthed tours, led by Haydn, which focused on the common graves in the park as well as those buried in the park who were lost at sea
- History walks with our long-standing collaborator Alan Gartrell, exploring everything from the Tottenham Outrage to the meaning of Remembrance
- A moving Remembrance Sunday service with outdoor choirs, readings and an evocative Last Post

Underpinning all this is the work of the Events Committee which met monthly.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

Hello Again Hackney grant.

We secured a grant of £2,500 from Hackney Council, as part of the Hello Again Hackney fund. This fund was developed as a post covid recovery initiative and offered to cultural institutions in the borough.

We were required to use the fund to bring new users to the park, particularly underserved communities. We decided to focus on local children and used pupil premium as a means to establish which school and nurseries to approach.

We ran a total of 11 events and brought over 200 children into the park. We estimate that over half of these children were from low income families.

The events were all themed around the park and the natural environment:

- Storytelling for children aged 3-6
- Forest school for both nursery aged and primary aged children
- Nature focused literacy workshops for children aged 10.

In addition to the events, we produced 5000 physical children's trails. The clues for the trails were crowdsourced from our events committee volunteers and the imagery was developed by two local artists; Sarah Finke and Susanna Burton. We distributed the trails at local primary schools, in local businesses and during our open days.

Online and digital presence

We have continued to update a microsite with a repository of key information about the National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration project. This includes key documents and, where available, information for the public about the works.

We also continued to use social media more actively both to promote the park, engage the community and forge new collaborations. We have made many new links this way and get interest from across the UK, and occasionally from abroad.

We produce a regular short email bulletin which is sent every 6 weeks or so to over 2,000 subscribers. Since September 2021 it has included a full update from the Trust Chair and these updates are included in the news pages on our website.

In total we received 68,282 users to our website in this period which is a 6.8% decrease vs. the same period. This decrease was to be expected as we have been able to offer fewer events due to the works in the park and therefore have seen a reduction in those needing to visit the site to make an event purchase.

In this period the park was mentioned multiple times in national, local or sector print/online press of note including the Financial Times, the Daily Express, the Hackney Gazette, Suitcase Magazine, the Daily Mirror's We Love TV magazine, and more.

Also in this period was the screening of "Jay Blades: No Place Like Home" on Channel 5, which featured our former Trust Manager and drove a significant number of visitors to the site.

In July 2022 we welcomed BBC1's Antiques Roadshow to Abney to film a contribution to a Stoke Newington episode. Fiona Bruce interviewed our Trust Manager as part of the broadcast. This was screened in spring 2023.

Grave searches

One of our most important roles is offering a grave search facility for those looking for relatives, friends or historic figures. Our team responds to these questions with dedication and compassion.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

Abney Park Trust received in the region of 221 enquiries about grave searches and burial records from relatives of those buried in Abney Park in 2022/23. Approximately 65 of these, where the records allowed, led to a full grave search. The grave search includes APT members of staff physically locating the grave site and either supporting the family to view the site or providing pictures and a copy of the burial records kept by the cemetery. This is never a straightforward process given the nature of the site and the often haphazard approach to burials during the 1960s and 70s.

If the grave cannot be found APT staff will provide whatever information is available as well as background about the development of the site as a cemetery.

The African Caribbean community in Hackney is predominantly represented in burials during the 1960s and 70s - reflecting the aspirations of the local community at that time, when the site was nearing the end of the period as a functioning cemetery.

Monument maintenance and restoration

We have remained focused on promoting the history and stories of Abney Park.

During the reporting year we maintained our commitment to cleaning and maintaining the Commonwealth War Graves on the site, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We maintain both individual Commonwealth War Graves and also the Commonwealth War Memorial at the heart of the park. We maintain the latter despite occasional misuse by members of the public. We are very grateful for the grant funding we receive from the CWGC to support this work.

Following the successful visit from Sir Bill Rollo in Autumn 2021, the CWGC revisited with their events planning and media people in late July 2022. They were very impressed by Abney and the visit went very well. A further small outreach event took place in the autumn. We committed to work together on further events to promote their important work, and the those buried and commemorated in Abney.

In relation to listed monuments in the park, we have prepared a preliminary assessment of work needed to maintain or repair a dozen listed monuments. We hope in the medium term to secure funding for these monuments.

Our major focus in 2022/23 was to work, in collaboration with author and writer Sharon Wright, to raise money to pay for a gravestone for female Victorian aeronaut pioneer Mrs Graham. The campaign began publicly in May 2022 and successfully raised £5,000 by August 2022. The design of the monument was developed by Sharon and our staff, working with local stonemason Charlotte Ruse. The stone was a carefully chosen slate and as well as providing a permanent memorial to Mrs Graham (who was buried in an unmarked paupers' grave) it also notes the names of those buried alongside her.

The memorial was 'unveiled' with a ceremony on 30th October 2022. Members of Mrs Graham's family attended including her great-great granddaughter and author Sharon. It was a beautiful ceremony and marked the amazing story of this brilliant and pioneering Victorian woman.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Restoration project

In January 2020 Hackney Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a major programme of restoration work for the park and its amenities. This is a huge opportunity for the park and we are grateful for many of our predecessors who campaigned over many years to protect and save the park.

Although the Trust is not directly accountable for the project we are hugely impacted by it and have worked actively with Hackney Council to make it a success.

Abney Park Trust Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

In this reporting period, the work continued on site. This is a profound change to the park and has seen a visible impact, for example:

- Closure and removal of existing offices and site clearance
- Entrances closed at different points over the year, limiting access
- Ground works, leading to major construction of new community facilities
- Full restoration of the chapel
- Reopening of the Church Street entrance in December 2022

We have participated fully in negotiation with the council and we have provided information to the public about what is happening on site, using #AbneyRestoration on social media and our own microsite pages.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Abney Park to become a major London landmark when the works are completed.

Although the work is very disruptive for the Trust, we have continued to meet our charitable objectives with real determination and flexibility.

In this period we have also ramped up our preparations for the delivery of the "Activity Plan", mainly through regular meetings with Hackney Council staff to refine the plans and develop a thorough understanding of our audience engagement objectives.

Staffing

In terms of staffing, we employed three part-time members of staff throughout the year.

In April 2022 we appointed a candidate into the role of Trust Manager, a newly shaped role. Given the post COVID 19 operating environment, we elected to increase the hours and pay rate for the role and commensurate with the newly created role. The candidate left the role after four months. For the remainder of the reporting year we carried the vacancy pending the completion of the restoration project and the commencement of the 'Activity Plan' (the programme of events funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund) which the Trust will play a crucial role in delivering a large part of.

To help cover some of the basic tasks we also employed a part time administrator between the period of October 2022 and January 2023. This helped stabilise our day to day administration and when the candidate took another role we covered tasks as Trustees.

Like everyone else, we have had to navigate the challenges of inflation and the cost of living challenge. In December 2022 the Board decided to award a significant pay rise to our long serving team member. This was in recognition of the expert knowledge, benchmarking against other roles and the wider cost of living crisis. The Board carefully considered the balance of using our charitable funds for salary increases but were confident in the justification and we want to look after our team in these challenging times.

Our team have continued to work very closely with Hackney Council's full time on site manager with further appointments to be made including to manage the chapel as an events venue and a volunteer coordinator. The Trust has been pleased to be part of the recruitment processes involved in key Hackney Council appointments, as well as the tender process for the new cafe and premises management.

Volunteer support

We rely on volunteers immensely to support the maintenance of the park and the work of the Trust. We are pleased that our volunteering work has continued. This includes:

- A monthly litter pick arranged with Abney Park User Group
- Grave plot maintenance – working with Commonwealth War Grave Commission
- General landscape volunteering – working with Hackney Council

Abney Park Trust Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

We have a steady number of volunteers across these activities:

- There is a small group of volunteers for Commonwealth War Grave maintenance, who provide a rotating core group of 4 -5 people to carry out the work on a regular, weekly basis. This group has been particularly successful in maintaining the 150-plus Commonwealth War Graves in Abney Park Cemetery and building on the strong relationship the Trust has with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Litter picking sessions can attract up to 20 people, including families and groups of friends. Numbers can be smaller when the weather is less favourable.
- Landscaping volunteers - (every Thursday morning) has a regular attendance of 6 volunteers each week. This represents a continually evolving group of around 20 people - as people's individual commitments and availability changes over time.

We also continue to work with Hackney Council on Abney Unearthed - the project to re-map Abney Park. This aims to create an online searchable map, add missing information to the burial records, research the various residents of Abney Park and bring their stories to light. The project was funded by NLHF and Hackney Council and is now part of the Activity Plan which sits alongside the wider restoration project.

Volunteer numbers have averaged around 11 - 15 people per week, as they have in previous years. Abney Unearthed has now checked the burial details of almost 59,000 people, adding 845 missing entries. They have also corrected the details, such as incorrect spelling of names, of over 1000 people.

Abney Unearthed has focused on the number of common graves on the site and the headstones of 749 people buried in common graves have been noted. The precise number of common graves in Abney Park Cemetery is currently unknown.

Fundraising

The Trust remains incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed financially to its work. This includes generous donations from across our community.

We have maintained our CAF donation page, initially started in May 2020, and we have received a steady stream of small donations throughout the year. This has totalled £6,094 over the year for one-off donations, direct debits and gift aid.

We benefited from a significant legacy donation of £5,000 and we were able to raise money by disposing of some old historic railings which were not required as part of the restoration works. We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to the Trust thereby enabling us to pursue our charitable objectives.

We submitted one grant application to the Hackney Council Community Fund for a programme of monument restoration in March 2022. The bid was unsuccessful but we hope to use the preparatory work for future bids.

Board composition

As the year has passed we have continued to make changes to the Board to bring in the skills we need. This has also reflected the fact that working patterns, locations and time commitments of Trustees vary and inevitably people move on.

During the year, we said goodbye to Cllr Polly Billington on 17th May 2022, Kate Jones on 4th July 2022, Treasurer Alison Bean on 13th February 2023 and Alison Rulton-Reed on 20th March 2023. They all made a big contribution in recent years. Particular thanks to Alison Bean who was Treasurer for four years and has played a huge role in stabilising the Trust's finances and streamlining much of our financial administration. She has made a huge difference.

In summer 2022 Cllr Fliss Premru took up one of the nominated Hackney Council elected member roles on the Board. Subsequent to the reporting year, Brooke McKinnis took over as Treasurer for the Trust.

Abney Park Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

The Board is now in a strong position although we plan for constant change given the nature of the commitment people make against other professional and personal commitments. The Board is now at a core membership and we will look to review it again in the period ahead.

Looking ahead

Writing in late summer 2023, we are approaching the end of the transition as the Restoration Project comes to a finish.

It will be a complete transformation of the Park. We will have new premises, a welcoming environment and access to the community space and chapel to put on events. Hackney Council will employ more staff, leading on areas that the Trust has previously made the running on. We are agreeing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the council to help ensure the Trust remains sustainable and we operate in true partnership. The park itself should become self-financing with revenues from weddings and other Hackney events ringfenced for the park's use.

We are confident about those opportunities and, at least at a high level, the role Hackney Council sees for us. But we are finalising the details as new staff arrive. Our advantages as a small charity mean we can mobilise community input and funding that is complementary to taxpayer investment.

At the time of writing, we have appointed a new Events, Community Engagement and Programming Manager who started in August 2023. We will consider bringing in some administration capacity to support our programme of work.

It is an exciting yet challenging time for the Trust and we look forward to the restoration work completing and further opportunities to meet our objectives. We are committed to working with Hackney Council to ensure the park's status as a Local Nature Reserve is both protected and enhanced and are actively seeking to engage more closely and effectively with Hackney Council to this end.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance

The Trust continues to manage its finances effectively. Overall, the Trust has maintained good progress towards becoming self-financing.

Non-core income this year represents 55% of the overall income of the Trust, down 10% from 65% last year. Sources of income other than the London Borough of Hackney core grant are:

Charitable activities: 5% of income (down 8% - see note 3 for a breakdown)

Trading activities: 3% of income (up 2% - see note 4 for a breakdown)

Donations & legacies: 38% of income (up 24% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

Other grants: 9% of income (up 6% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

The staff time required to raise non-core funds continues to be significant. The cost of fundraising represents 18% of our total expenditure, with the remaining 82% spent on charitable activities, a decrease of 6% of expenditure spent on charitable activities in comparison with the previous year.

Reserves policy

Our reserves remain healthy. The Trust retains reserve funds sufficient to finance core activities for three months and other exceptional costs including redundancies if existing income streams were to cease.

Reserves are held in an interest-bearing deposit account.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

The trustees (who are also the directors of Abney Park Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a.) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b.) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c.) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d.) state whether applicable accounting standard comprising FRS 102 and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- e.) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Small companies provision statement:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements were approved by the trustees, also directors of the charity on:

Date : 20/11/2023

Signed on behalf of the Board :



Name : Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Abney Park Trust on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2023 set out on pages 15 to 22.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

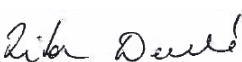
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Sign: 

Date: 21.11.2023

ABNEY PARK TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Incorporating income and expenditure account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2a & 10	15,774	25,472	41,246	48,184
Charitable activities	2b	2,343	-	2,343	7,616
Other trading activities	2c	1,288	-	1,288	766
Investment Income : Bank interest	2d	114	-	114	3
TOTAL		19,519	25,472	44,991	56,569
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	3 & 4	15,413	-	15,413	4,931
Charitable Activities	3, 4, 10	1,613	28,105	29,718	36,254
TOTAL		17,026	28,105	45,131	41,185
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)		2,493	-2,633	-140	15,384
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,493	-2,633	-140	15,384
Transfers between funds	10	-133	133	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,360	-2,500	-140	15,384
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total Funds Brought Forward		49,703	2,500	52,203	36,819
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		52,063	-	52,063	52,203

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.
The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02634036
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-23 Total £	31-Mar-22 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	6	264	-	264	528
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	69	-	69	646
Cash at bank and in hand	8	53,056	-	53,056	53,725
Total Current Assets		53,125	-	53,125	54,371
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	1,326	-	1,326	2,696
NET CURRENT ASSETS		51,799	-	51,799	51,675
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		52,063	-	52,063	52,203
NET ASSETS		52,063	-	52,063	52,203
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds	10	52,063	-	52,063	49,703
Restricted Funds	10	-	-	-	2,500
Total Funds		52,063	-	52,063	52,203

For the year ending 31st March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibility:

1. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006; and

2. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 15 and 16 were approved by the directors, and authorised for issue on:

Date: 20/11/2023

Signed and approved by on behalf of all the Directors



Print name : Tom Walker

**ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Statutory information

Abney Park Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address and principal place of business is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH.

1.2 Basis of preparation:

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees have reviewed our forecasts and concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3 Income

Income is accounted for when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

1.5 Stock

Stock is measured at the lower of original purchase cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date. Stock is excluded from the balance sheet, as the year end balance is immaterial.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Stage:	33% Straight line
Office equipment:	25% Straight line
Furniture and fittings:	25% Straight line

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Financial Instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exception of any prepayments and deferred income, all debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Association and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.11 Employee benefits

Short Term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

1.12 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is written off as incurred.

1.13 Areas of critical judgement & estimation

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.14 Volunteer time

The Charity works with a number of volunteers who help conserve and improve the landscape at Abney Park. The contribution of this time has not been included in income in the financial statements as the value of this time cannot be reliably measured.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£	£	£
a) Donations and Legacies				
London Borough of Hackney	-	20,214	20,214	35,273
Legacies	5,000	-	5,000	-
Fresh & Wild	-	-	-	1,330
Commonwealth				
War Graves Commission	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Donations including Gift Aid	6,774	5,258	12,032	7,581
	15,774	25,472	41,246	48,184
b) Charitable Activities				
Grave search & maintenance	748	-	748	1,965
Guided tours	1,595	-	1,595	5,651
	2,343	-	2,343	7,616
c) Other Trading Activities				
Other Income	34	-	34	-
Shop Income	1,254	-	1,254	766
	1,288	-	1,288	766
d) Investment income				
Bank interest	114	-	114	3
	114	-	114	3

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

CURRENT YEAR	Direct Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	10,514	2,024	2,876	15,413
Charitable activities	15,020	6,071	8,627	29,718
	25,533	8,095	11,503	45,131

Support costs are detailed in Note 4 and are allocated on the basis of direct staff costs.

PRIOR YEAR

	Direct Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	TOTAL 2022
	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	2,739	240	1,952	4,931
Charitable activities	19,175	3,412	13,667	36,254
	21,914	3,652	15,619	41,185

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	555	1,230
	555	1,230
Other support costs:		
Staff costs	4,506	5,479
Telephone and internet	532	718
Website	543	373
Insurance	2,373	2,436
Alarm system	-	786
Small IT equipment	305	776
Other office costs	272	1,136
Subscriptions + Legal fee	95	
Accountancy	942	1,574
Marketing	815	519
Depreciation	264	520
Bank charges	127	72
Transaction fees	174	-
	11,503	15,619

ABNEY PARK TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

5. EMPLOYEE AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and all members of staff. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £30,092 (2022: £27,393). None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or the previous year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year of £120 (2022: 1 trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £168).

	2023 £	2022 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	29,501	26,592
Employer's pension contributions	538	801
	<u>30,039</u>	<u>27,393</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Particulars of employees:

The maximum number of employees in the year were 3, which reduced to 1 by the end of the financial year.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Stage £	Short Leasehold £	Office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	3,000	17,323	7,079	5,000	32,402
At 31 March 2023	3,000	17,323	7,079	5,000	32,402
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	3,000	17,323	6,551	5,000	31,874
Charge for the year			264		264
At 31 March 2023	3,000	17,323	6,815	5,000	32,138
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	-	-	264	-	264
At 31 March 2022	-	-	528	-	528

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Prepayments	-	-	69	646
	-	-	69	646

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and on hand	53,056	53,725
Total	<u>53,056</u>	<u>53,725</u>

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Accruals	-	-	-	1,586
Independent Examiners Fees	1,110	-	1,110	1,110
PAYE Liability	216	-	216	-
	1,326	-	1,326	2,696

10. FUNDS

	CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD			
	Balance 31-Mar-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £
Restricted funds:				
London Borough Hackney	-	20,214	-20,214	-
Mrs Graham fund	-	5,258	-5,258	-
Hello Again Hackney	2,500	-	-2,633	133
Total restricted Funds	2,500	25,472	-28,105	133
General Funds	49,703	19,519	-17,026	-133
Total funds	52,203	44,991	-45,131	-

Hello Again Hackney- this grant from the London Borough of Hackney is to offer free cultural events to Hackney residents who are experiencing financial hardship or are on low incomes.

	PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD			
	Balance 31-Mar-21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £
Restricted funds:				
LB Hackney:				
A Place for Everyone	-	20,000	-20,000	-
Hello Again Hackney	-	2,500	-	-
Covid related grants	-	12,773	-12,773	-
Total restricted Funds	-	35,273	-32,773	-
General Funds	36,819	21,296	-8,412	-
Total funds	36,819	56,569	-41,185	-

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total at 31 £
Tangible fixed assets	264	-	264
Net current assets	51,799	-	51,799
	52,063	-	52,063

Abney Park Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - Continued
PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	528	-	528
Net current assets	49,175	2,500	51,675
	<u>49,703</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>52,203</u>

12. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	12,911	35,273	48,184
Charitable activities	7,616	-	7,616
Other trading activities	766	-	766
Investments: Bank interest	3	-	3
TOTAL INCOME	<u>21,296</u>	<u>35,273</u>	<u>56,569</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	4,931	-	4,931
Charitable Activities	3,481	32,773	36,254
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>8,412</u>	<u>32,773</u>	<u>41,185</u>
Net income/ Net movement in funds	<u>12,884</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>15,384</u>
Balances brought forward	<u>36,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,819</u>
Balances carried forward	<u>49,703</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>52,203</u>

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1005334

Accounts



ABNEY PARK TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Registered Company 02634036

Registered Charity 1005334



The roof and high windows of Abney Park's historic chapel, captured June 2021 before renovation began National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported renovation. Credit: Fred Adams [pastpictorial.co.uk](https://www.pastpictorial.co.uk)

ABNEY PARK TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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ABNEY PARK TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company registration number	02634036
Charity registration number	1005334
The Board of Trustees	Alison Bean Aroa Fernandez Alvarez (resigned 8.9.21) Roger Chapman (resigned 20.10.21) Martina Girvan (appointed 8.9.21) Carol Goldwag Kate Jones (resigned 4.7.22) John McShane Benjamin Pass (appointed 8.9.21) Felicity Jane Premru (appointed 27.5.22) Elinor Roberts (appointed 21.8.21) Alison Rulton-Reed (appointed 8.9.21) Dr Eva Rachel Sharpe (resigned 20.10.21) Christopher Sherwood (appointed 8.9.21, resigned 13.10.21) Holly Spice (resigned 8.9.21) Nicholas Toner Tom Walker (Chair)
In addition, two representatives of Hackney Council sit or sat on the Board:	Cllr Polly Billington (resigned 17.5.22) Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas Cllr Felicity Premru (appointed 27.5.22)
Company Secretary	Nicholas Toner
Registered Office & Principal address	The South Lodge Abney Park Stoke Newington High Street London N16 0LH
Bankers	HSBC 312 Seven Sisters Road Finsbury Park London N4 2AW
Independent examiner	JS2 Limited One Crown Square Woking Surrey GU21 6HR

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity

Abney Park Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 02634036) and a registered charity (registered number 1005334). The Trustees are also Directors of the company.

The Trust is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and its registered office is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High St, London N16 0LH.

The governance and management of the Trust is provided by the Board of Trustees elected by the members and operating in accordance with the articles of association.

The Trust advertises for new trustees when these are required. Between Annual General Meetings, potential new Trustees submit their CV and reasons for wanting to be a Trustee. They are then interviewed by two current Trustees, the Chair, and, if considered suitable, a recommendation is made to the rest of the Board who will then decide whether or not to appoint them. They are then formally put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Trustees are made by nomination from the London Borough of Hackney.

The Trust sends new Trustees an induction pack of documents relating to the Trust (including the governing document and the policies and procedures in place) and Charity Commission guidance on the duties of charity Trustees. The Trust also invites new Trustees to observe the meetings of the Board and spend time at Abney Park with staff members.

Abney Park is a 32-acre park in Stoke Newington in the London Borough of Hackney (Hackney Council). It was formerly a garden cemetery and includes densely wooded grounds based on a Victorian arboretum. It also contains operational buildings, listed historic monuments, tens of thousands of memorials, and a disused but recently stabilised Grade II listed funerary chapel which is Europe's oldest surviving non-denominational chapel. Abney has significant historical, religious, genealogical, museum/archival, ecological and architectural importance.

Abney Park:

- is a registered Historic Park and Garden, Brown Plaque site, and part of the Stoke Newington Conservation Area
- has a number of listed monuments and buildings
- is a designated statutory Local Nature Reserve, the first such reserve in Hackney

The Trust occupies Abney Park under a Licence to Occupy from Hackney Council. The arrangement between the Trust and Hackney Council is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Trust management

Details on the Trust's Board composition and staffing position are later in this report.

In the period covered by this report we have maintained the rationalised subcommittee structure with two subcommittees. Our committees are made up of Trust staff, Trustees and volunteers with expertise in relevant fields.

There are two subcommittees which meet regularly and report to the APT Board at each meeting.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Events Committee

Our Events Committee manages the Trust's busy programme of events including both on site and online virtual events. It also discusses and coordinates any event proposals that come in from external organisations.

Committee members for the reporting period: Irena Goldwag (Trustee), Liz Parr (Volunteer, resigned 31st January 2022), Dr Romany Reagan (Volunteer), Haydn Schaare (APT staff), Dr Eva Sharpe (Trustee, until 20th October 2021), Holly Spice (Vice Chair of APT, until 8th September 2021), Nick Toner (Trustee), Lorraine Tillett (Chair of Abney Park User Group), Zach Young (APT staff, until 7th January 2022), Elinor Roberts (Trustee from 28th August 2021) and Martina Girvan (Trustee from 8th September 2021).

Fundraising Committee

Our Fundraising Committee coordinates the Trust's philanthropic approaches, corporate fundraising, grant writing and other fundraising projects.

Committee members: Aroa Fernandez Alvarez (Trustee, until 8th September 2021), Alison Bean (Treasurer), Kate Jones (Trustee until 4th July 2022), Nick Toner (Trustee), Alison Rulton-Reed (Trustee from 8th September 2021), Ben Pass (Trustee from 8th September 2021) and Tom Walker (Chair of APT)

Risk assessment

A comprehensive risk register was introduced during the previous reporting period and is reviewed periodically by the Board. The main risks revolve around:

- **Future role and purpose** - the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid will change our operating model and will require new priorities. The year has seen full comprehensive work begin on site with a change in the previous office premises, access to the park and an increase in general uncertainty. The work to establish a stable position with Hackney Council is work in progress.
- **The Abney Park site** - there are hazards that mean that the public could be at risk. Both Hackney Council and the Trust have insurance covering this risk and we work closely with the police to help ensure safety. We maintain a crisis communications plan in case of serious reputational risk.
- **Recovery from COVID 19** - the period covered by this report includes the continued uncertainty of COVID 19 including periods of working from home and safe closure of our office and limits on events. We have carefully managed this in accordance with public health guidance.
- **Grant funding and financial stability** - our major grants are secured annually and this means we have to take a prudent approach to financing projects, particularly in a time of continued financial uncertainty.
- **Safeguarding** - as a public site with some history of anti-social behaviour we maintain a high level of vigilance and adherence to safeguarding good practice, particularly for our in person events and those involving families. This includes regular liaison with the council and neighbourhood police.
- **Pressure on staff and trustees** - the Trust has a small but busy staff team, and a high reliance on volunteers and trustees. We have Trustee succession plans in place, and offer staff regular opportunities to communicate their needs and challenges.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the Trust

The objects for which the Trust is established, as set out in its articles of association, are:

1. The conservation and restoration for the benefit of the public of the property known as Abney Park or Abney Park Cemetery (Abney) as an area of architectural and ecological significance, and historical and religious associations.
2. To promote the benefit of inhabitants of London and in particular the Borough of Hackney without distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
3. The advancement of public education by the establishment and display of a collection or collections of information literature manuscripts and artefacts concerning the history, development, associations and ecology of the cemetery.

The work of the Trust

The Trust works to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives, which includes promoting Abney as an inner-city heritage and community resource. This involves:

- Meeting with Hackney Council's Abney Park Manager and staff regularly to discuss the management of the site and Trust activities.
- Meeting regularly as sub-committees to consider and progress areas of the Trust's work.
- Developing projects for improving the site and preserving its monuments (see below).
- Organising events and tours for the public on site - both free and ticketed.
- Continuing to look for ways to involve more of the community in Abney and to make it more sustainable.
- Maintaining a programme for volunteers and actively promoting these volunteering opportunities.
- Operating the information centre and the shop (closed from summer 2021).
- Carrying out grave searches and maintenance working closely with families and friends of those buried in Abney Park.

The Trust is also a member of the Abney Park Development Board set up by Hackney Council to secure funding for Abney through a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid and decide on the future development of Abney. That Board now helps oversee the development of the project.

Recovery from COVID 19 – 2021/22

The reporting period covered by this Annual Report has seen us emerge in a healthy position despite the challenges of COVID 19. In partnership with Hackney Council we complied with all guidance to maintain a COVID secure working environment. While this imposed constraints it has also forced us to be creative. During the reporting period we have slowly been able to return to more direct public engagement, including the reopening of our visitor centre in May 2021 shortly before the restoration project began on site.

During the year we have continued to work in a hybrid way. The Board and subcommittees continued to meet virtually, with the Board only meeting in person again in June 2022. Staff have worked from home, from our office, and since the restoration project began from a shared temporary accommodation on site.

Our events have pivoted back to 'in person' and onsite events and are detailed below.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Activities during 2021/2022

The following activities were carried out throughout the year to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives:

Events and engagement

COVID 19 provided a shock to the Trust's operating model. In the previous period all events moved online.

During 2021/22 we have been able to return to on site events, albeit operating carefully within the COVID secure guidance in the early part of the reporting period. This meant limited numbers and increased the preparation time needed and amount of compliance required. We are pleased to have standardised and simplified procedures in the later part of the year with help from council officers.

With the commencement of the building works the site has been more limited in terms of access and use. This has not inhibited the range of talks and walks we put on, but has meant that the larger events the Trust ran before 2020 have not been possible, for example the summer and winter fayres and the summer theatre productions.

Despite these restrictions - and thanks to our fantastic staff - we have populated a wide-ranging programme of events.

There are key dates in the Abney calendar including the marking of the Coronation Avenue tragedy (commemorated by the Civilian War Memorial) in October, Remembrance Sunday in November and the park's anniversary in May. Alongside these we put on a range of regular tours and experiment with new collaborations and partnerships.

In terms of events, we held 42 events in total, of which 21 were history-themed talks or tours, seven were nature-themed talks or tours, 11 were culture/art-themed talks or tours, two were community events and memorials, and one was our Annual General Meeting.

We sold or gave out 758 tickets for these events.

Particular highlights included:

- the series of final tours of Abney Park's chapel before it closed for restoration (June 2021),
- Russell Miller's "Winter in Abney Park's woodland wonderland" tour (Jan 2022) and
- a sell-out Abney Unearthed Common Graves tour (Feb 2022).

This is on top of an ongoing series of regular walks.

Other notable occasions over the course of the year included a number of tours with Simon Cole of Hackney Tours, plus an after-dark bat walk allowing participants to join in a survey to see exactly which species of bat could be found in the park. We also experimented with a moth walk one late summer evening.

Underpinning all this is the work of the Events Committee which meets (usually) monthly. In this reporting period, it streamlined its meetings to focus more closely on key aims – including diversity of event type to appeal to as wide an audience as possible, building long-term relationships with collaborators and event leaders, and (where appropriate) encouraging revenue generation.

Online and digital presence

We have continued to improve our online presence, albeit with fewer online events this year. Our refreshed website has more content and is a permanent archive of talks and events.

We have developed a microsite with a repository of key information about the National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration project. This included key documents and mini podcast interviews with the site manager.

We also continued to use social media more actively both to promote the park, engage the community and forge new collaborations. We have made many new links this way and get interest from across the UK, and occasionally from abroad.

We produce a short monthly email bulletin which is sent to roughly 2,500 subscribers. Since September 2021 it has included a full update from the Trust's Chair and these updates are included in the news pages on our website.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

In total we received 72,821 new users to our website in this period.

In this period the park received around 16 mentions in national, local or sector print/online press of note including Metro, Harper's Bazaar, Hackney Citizen, Conde Nast Traveller and Museums Journal (which carried a full-page piece written by a Trustee).

On broadcast, a particular highlight of this period was the filming of "Jay Blades: No Place Like Home" for Channel 5, which featured our former Trust Manager. This was filmed during this reporting period and screened during the next one.

Grave searches

One of our most important roles is offering a grave search facility for those looking for relatives, friends or historic figures. Our team responds to these questions with dedication and compassion.

Abney Park Trust received in the region of 170 enquiries about grave searches and burial records from relatives of those buried in Abney Park in 2021/22. Approximately 60 of these, where the records allowed, led to a full grave search. The grave search includes APT members of staff physically locating the grave site and either supporting the family to view the site or providing pictures and a copy of the burial records kept by the cemetery. This is never a straightforward process given the nature of the site and the often haphazard approach to burials during the 1960s and 70s.

If the grave cannot be found APT staff will provide whatever information is available as well as background about the development of the site as a cemetery.

Monument maintenance and restoration

We have remained focused on promoting the history and stories of Abney Park.

During the reporting year we maintained our commitment to cleaning and maintaining the Commonwealth War Graves on the site, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We maintain both individual Commonwealth War Graves and also the Commonwealth War Memorial at the heart of the park. We maintain the latter despite occasional misuse by members of the public. We are very grateful for the grant funding we receive from the CWGC to support this work.

We were delighted to host a delegation from the War Graves Commission in the autumn of 2021. Vice Chairman Sir Bill Rollo and a team from the Commission attended the site and commended the work we have done.

In relation to listed monuments in the park, our team has prepared a preliminary assessment of work needed to maintain or repair a dozen listed monuments. We hope in the medium term to secure funding for these monuments.

Towards the end of this reporting period, in collaboration with author and writer Sharon Wright, we began preparation for a campaign to raise money to pay for a gravestone for female Victorian aeronaut pioneer Mrs Graham. The campaign began publicly in May 2022 and successfully raised £5,000 by August 2022.

National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration project

In January 2020 Hackney Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a major programme of restoration work for the park and its amenities. This is a huge opportunity for the park and we are grateful for many of our predecessors who campaigned over many years to protect and save the park.

Although the Trust is not directly accountable for the project we are hugely impacted by it and have worked actively with Hackney Council to make it a success.

In this reporting period, the work began on site. This is a profound change to the park and has seen a visible impact, for example:

- Major tree felling at the High Street entrance in March
- Closure and removal of existing offices and site clearance
- Entrances closed at different points over the year, limiting access
- Ground works
- Full restoration of the chapel commencing in June

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- Trenching work to provide utilities to the chapel during the autumn

The temporary site compound was created in October 2021 and the Trust was delighted to join the ground-breaking ceremony in October 2021 with the Mayor of Hackney, Councillors and other local representatives.

We have participated fully in negotiations with the council and we have provided information to the public about what is happening on site, using #AbneyRestoration on social media and our own microsite pages.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Abney Park to become a major London landmark when the works are completed.

Although the work is very disruptive for the Trust, we have continued to meet our charitable objectives with real determination and flexibility.

Staffing

In terms of staffing, we employed two part-time members of staff throughout the year.

Both of our staff members have shown outstanding leadership and personal resilience coping with the challenges of COVID 19 and the disruption caused by the restoration project. The Board would like to record its formal acknowledgement of their work, professionalism and dedication during this period.

Towards the end of the period in December 2021 one of our Trust Coordinators, Zach Young, decided to move to a new role at the Museum of the Order of St John. After 21 months with us through an extraordinary time we were sorry to see Zach move and we thank him for his contribution. We were pleased to be able to give his career a good start in the heritage industry. The Trust decided, given a more stable operating environment, to increase the hours and pay rate for the role and reset it as a Trust Manager.

We recruited between January and March. Unfortunately our preferred candidate withdrew a week before she was due to commence in post. We made an offer to another candidate who started in post in April 2022. At the time of writing the vacancy has risen again and the Trust will consider the options for the role in light of the post-restoration project arrangements with Hackney Council.

Hackney Council now employs a full time on site manager with further appointments to be made, such as a volunteer coordinator. We will work together to make sure our roles add value to the work of the council.

Volunteer support

We rely on volunteers immensely to support the maintenance of the park and the work of the Trust. We are pleased that our volunteering work has restarted. This includes:

- A monthly litter pick arranged with Abney Park User Group
- Grave plot maintenance - working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- General landscape volunteering - working with Hackney Council

We have a steady number of volunteers across these activities:

- There is a small volunteer base for Commonwealth War Grave maintenance, who provide a rotating core group of 4 - 5 people to carry out the work on a regular, weekly basis. This group has been particularly successful in maintaining the 150-plus Commonwealth War Graves in Abney Park Cemetery and building on the strong relationship APT has with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Litter picking sessions can attract up to 20 people, including families and groups of friends. Numbers can be smaller when the weather is less favourable.
- Landscaping volunteers (every Thursday morning) has a regular attendance of 6 volunteers each week. This represents a continually evolving group of around 20 people - as people's individual commitments and availability changes over time.

We also continue to work with Hackney Council on Abney Unearthed - the project to re-map Abney Park. This aims to create an online searchable map, add missing information to the burial records, research the various residents of Abney Park and bring their stories to light. The project was funded by NLHF and Hackney Council and is now part of the Activity Plan which sits alongside the wider restoration project.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Since resuming, volunteer numbers have averaged around 10-13 people per week, as they have in previous years. Abney Unearthed has now checked the burial details of almost 43,000 people, adding 842 missing entries.

Abney Unearthed has focused on the number of common graves on the site and the headstones of 700 people buried in common graves have been noted. The precise number of common graves in Abney Park Cemetery is not known.

Fundraising

The Trust remains incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed financially to its work. This includes generous donations from across our community.

We have maintained our CAF donation page, initially started in May 2020, and we have received a steady stream of small donations throughout the year. This has totalled £7,581 over the year for one-off donations, direct debits and Gift Aid.

We secured a £2,500 grant from Hackney Council as part of their *Hello Again, Hackney* campaign and cultural venues re-opening fund to welcome people back to venues in the borough. This has enabled us to do a programme of engagement targeted on harder to reach households, and to pay collaborators to work with schools and other organisations.

And we were very pleased to receive in March 2022 a £1,330 donation from Whole Foods Market's Store Giving programme. Whole Foods is one of our close neighbours in Stoke Newington.

We have been lucky to receive some funding through various COVID recovery payment schemes and remain in a relatively strong financial position for the short to medium term.

We submitted one grant application to the Hackney Council Community Fund for a programme of monument restoration in March 2022. The bid was unsuccessful but we hope to use the preparatory work for future bids.

Board composition

As the year has passed we have continued to make changes to the Board to bring in the skills we need. This has also reflected the fact that working patterns, locations and time commitments of Trustees vary and inevitably people move on.

During the year we said goodbye to our Deputy Chair, Holly Spice and long serving Trustees Roger Chapman and Eva Sharpe and then Aroa Fernandez Alvarez. They all made a big contribution in recent years and we are particularly grateful to Holly for acting as Deputy Chair.

In summer 2021 we recruited five new trustees, although one stood down for personal reasons shortly after appointment. The new Trustees brought in much needed experience in fundraising, ecology, events and legal expertise. Nick Toner became Deputy Chair.

The Board is now in a strong position although we plan for constant change given the nature of the commitment people make against other professional and personal commitments. We are planning for a handover of the Treasurer role in late 2022.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Looking ahead

Writing in autumn 2022, we are in the middle of a transition as the restoration project continues.

Once finished, the park will be completely transformed. We will have new premises, a welcoming environment and access to the chapel to put on events. Hackney Council will employ more staff, leading on areas that the Trust has previously made the running on. The park itself should become self-financing, with revenues from weddings and other Hackney events ringfenced for the park's use.

We are confident about those opportunities and, at least at a high level, the role Hackney Council sees for us. But we are in the middle of working that out in more detail.

We now have some discretion about the staff we can bring in and how we shape the role. And our advantages as a small charity mean we can mobilise community input and funding that is complementary to taxpayer investment.

We have some recent achievements to really proud of:

- A regular flow of community open days engaging more directly with the community again
- A brilliantly designed children's trail, launched in summer 2022
- A permanent headstone to Mrs Graham, to be unveiled in autumn 2022

It is an exciting yet challenging time for the Trust and we look forward to the restoration work completing and further opportunities to meet our objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance

The Trust continues to manage its finances effectively. Overall, the Trust has maintained good progress towards becoming self-financing.

Sources of income, other than the London Borough of Hackney core grant, represented 73.9% of the overall income of the Trust in 2021/22. This was up 3.1% from 70.8% in 2020/21. This breaks down as:

Other grants from London Borough of Hackney: 19.9% (up 19.9%)

Charitable activities: 10.0% of income (up 4.4% - see note 3 for a breakdown)

Trading activities: 1.0% of income (down 0.7% - see note 4 for a breakdown)

Donations & legacies: 9.9% of income (down 23.4% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

Other grants: 33.1% of income (up 2.9% - see note 2 for a breakdown)

COVID 19 meant our office was closed for some of this financial year and that we were unable to hold many events in the park. The loss of income from grave services, hires and face-to-face events was offset by donations and grants, and income from online events.

The staff time required to raise non-core funds continues to be significant. The cost of fundraising represents 12.0% of our total expenditure, with the remaining 88.0% spent on charitable activities, a decrease of 1.7% of expenditure spent on charitable activities in comparison with the previous year.

Reserves policy

Our reserves remain healthy. The Trust retains reserve funds sufficient to finance core activities for three months and other exceptional costs including redundancies if existing income streams were to cease.

Reserves are held in an interest-bearing deposit account.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Preparation of the report

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

It was approved, and authorised for issue, by the Trustees on 12th October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Walker', is written over a light grey dotted rectangular background.

Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

OF ABNEY PARK TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2022 as set out on pages 12 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters which I am required to state to them in an independent examiners report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the statement I have given below.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.



JOHN SPEED FCA FCIE

JS2 Limited
One Crown Square
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6HR

Date: 26 October 2022

ABNEY PARK TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
	Note				
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	12,911	35,273	48,184	63,460
Charitable activities	3	7,616	-	7,616	3,739
Other trading activities	4	766	-	766	1,178
Investments: Bank interest		3		3	3
TOTAL INCOME		21,296	35,273	56,569	68,380
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		4,931	-	4,931	4,938
Charitable Activities		3,481	32,773	36,254	42,965
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	8,412	32,773	41,185	47,903
Net income/ Net movement in funds		12,884	2,500	15,384	20,477
Balances brought forward		36,819	-	36,819	16,342
Balances carried forward		49,703	2,500	52,203	36,819

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Registered Company number 02634036
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		528		1,048
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	646		2,328	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>53,725</u>		<u>35,771</u>	
		54,371		38,099	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(2,696)		(2,328)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			51,675		35,771
NET ASSETS			<u>52,203</u>		<u>36,819</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	11		2,500		-
Unrestricted funds: General fund	11		49,703		36,819
			<u>52,203</u>		<u>36,819</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved and authorised for issue by the directors on 12th October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:-



TOM WALKER, Chair



ALISON BEAN, Treasurer

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Statutory information

Abney Park Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address and principal place of business is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH.

1.2 Basis of accounting and preparation

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore has also prepared the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees have reviewed our forecasts and concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3 Income

Income is accounted for when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

1.5 Stock

Stock is measured at the lower of original purchase cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date. Stock is excluded from the balance sheet, as the year end balance is immaterial.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:-

Stage	33% Straight line
Office equipment	25% Straight line
Furniture and fittings	25% Straight line

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exception of any prepayments and deferred income, all debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Association and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.11 Employee benefits

Short term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

1.12 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is written off as incurred.

1.13 Areas of critical judgement & estimation

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.14 Volunteer time

The Charity works with a number of volunteers who help conserve and improve the landscape at Abney Park. The contribution of this time has not been included in income in the financial statements as the value of this time cannot be reliably measured.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
London Borough of Hackney	-	35,273	35,273	20,000
Historic England	-	-	-	6,667
National Heritage Lottery Fund	-	-	-	10,000
Fresh & Wild	1,330	-	1,330	-
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total grants	5,330	35,273	40,603	40,667
Donations including gift aid	7,581	-	7,581	22,793
	12,911	35,273	48,184	63,460

Of total donations and legacies received the year to 31 March 2021, £20,000 from the London Borough of Hackney and £10,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund were restricted, with the balance being unrestricted.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Grave search & maintenance	1,965	-	1,965	1,877
Education and events (including guided tours)	5,651	-	5,651	1,862
	7,616	-	7,616	3,739

4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Theatre event	-	-	-	729
Shop income	766	-	766	449
	766	-	766	1,178

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. EXPENDITURE

CURRENT YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Raising funds	2,739	240	1,952	4,931	4,938
Charitable activities	19,175	3,412	13,667	36,254	42,965
	21,914	3,652	15,619	41,185	<i>47,903</i>

Support costs are detailed in Note 6 and are allocated on the basis of direct staff costs.

PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Direct Staff costs £</i>	<i>Direct costs £</i>	<i>Support costs £</i>	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Raising funds	2,650	63	2,225	4,938
Charitable activities	18,547	8,848	15,570	42,965
	<i>21,197</i>	<i>8,911</i>	<i>17,795</i>	<i>47,903</i>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2022 £	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	1,230	<i>1,164</i>
	1,230	<i>1,164</i>
Other support costs		
Staff costs	5,479	<i>5,299</i>
Telephone and internet	718	<i>564</i>
Website	373	<i>511</i>
Insurance	2,436	<i>2,465</i>
Alarm system	786	<i>922</i>
Small IT equipment	776	<i>1,254</i>
Other office costs	1,136	<i>2,565</i>
Accountancy	1,574	<i>1,673</i>
Marketing	519	<i>853</i>
Depreciation	520	<i>520</i>
Bank charges	72	<i>5</i>
	15,619	<i>17,795</i>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. EMPLOYEE AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and all members of staff. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £27,393 (2021: £26,496). None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or the previous year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year of £168 (2021: 1 trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £31).

	2022 £	2021 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	26,592	25,756
Employer pension contributions	801	740
	<u>27,393</u>	<u>26,496</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Particulars of employees:

The average headcount during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
	<u>1.8</u>	<u>2.0</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Stage	Short Leasehold	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	3,000	17,323	16,451	19,903	56,677
Disposals	-	-	(9,372)	(14,903)	(24,275)
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,000</u>	<u>17,323</u>	<u>7,079</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>32,402</u>
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	3,000	17,323	15,403	19,903	55,629
Charge for the year	-	-	520	-	520
Released on disposal			(9,372)	(14,903)	(24,275)
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,000</u>	<u>17,323</u>	<u>6,551</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>31,874</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>528</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,048</u>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	646	971
Other debtors	-	1,357
	<u>646</u>	<u>2,328</u>

10. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	2,696	2,328
	<u>2,696</u>	<u>2,328</u>

11. FUNDS

FUNDS IN THE CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney:					
A Place for Everyone	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Hello Again Hackney		2,500	-	-	2,500
Covid related grants		12,773	(12,773)	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	35,273	(32,773)	-	2,500
General fund	36,819	21,296	(8,412)	-	49,703
Total funds	<u>36,819</u>	<u>56,569</u>	<u>(41,185)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,203</u>

Restricted funds:

- A Place for Everyone - this grant from the London Borough of Hackney is to ensure Abney Park is kept open and freely accessible, and the grounds are maintained as a local green resource.
- Hello Again Hackney- this grant from the London Borough of Hackney is to offer free cultural events to Hackney residents who are experiencing financial hardship or are on low incomes.
- Covid related grants - these grants are form the London Borough of Hackney. The only restriction upon them is that they are not to be used for staff costs.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11. FUNDS (continued)

FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Balance at 31 March 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2021 £</i>
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
National Lottery					
Heritage Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Isaac Watts					
Monument Restoration	2,719	-	(2,719)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>2,719</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>(32,719)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General fund	13,623	38,380	(15,184)	-	36,819
Total funds	<u><u>16,342</u></u>	<u><u>68,380</u></u>	<u><u>(47,903)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>36,819</u></u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	528	-	528
Net current assets	49,175	2,500	51,675
	<u><u>49,703</u></u>	<u><u>2,500</u></u>	<u><u>52,203</u></u>

PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total at 31 March 2021 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,048	-	1,048
Net current assets	35,771	-	35,771
	<u><u>36,819</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>36,819</u></u>

ABNEY PARK TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

13. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2020 £</i>
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	33,460	30,000	63,460
Charitable activities	3,739	-	3,739
Other trading activities	1,178	-	1,178
Investments: Bank interest	3		3
TOTAL INCOME	38,380	30,000	68,380
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	4,938	-	4,938
Charitable Activities	10,246	32,719	42,965
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,184	32,719	47,903
Net income/ (expenditure)/ Net movement in funds	23,196	(2,719)	20,477
Balances brought forward	13,623	2,719	16,342
Balances carried forward	36,819	-	36,819

ABNEY PARK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1005334

Accounts



ABNEY PARK TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered Company 02634036

Registered Charity 1005334



ABNEY PARK TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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ABNEY PARK TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company registration number	02634036
Charity registration number	1005334
The Board of Trustees	Alison Bean Aroa Fernandez Alvarez (resigned 8.9.21) Lou Boyd (resigned 5.8.20) Roger Chapman Paul Ely (resigned 14.5.20) Martina Girvan (appointed 8.9.21) Carol Goldwag Kate Jones (appointed 27.5.20) John McShane Paul Miller (appointed 27.5.20 - resigned 5.8.20) Benjamin Pass (appointed 8.9.21) Elinor Roberts (appointed 21.8.21) Alison Rulton-Reed (appointed 8.9.21) Eva Rachel Sharpe Christopher Sherwood (appointed 8.9.21) Holly Spice (resigned 8.9.21) Penny Taylor (resigned 3.8.20) Nicholas Toner (appointed 27.5.20) Tom Walker (Chair)
In addition, two representatives of Hackney Council sit on the Board:	Cllr Polly Billington Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas
Company Secretary	Zachariah Young
Registered Office & Principal address	The South Lodge Abney Park Stoke Newington High Street London N16 0LH
Bankers	HSBC 312 Seven Sisters Road Finsbury Park London N4 2AW
Independent examiner	JS2 Limited One Crown Square Woking Surrey GU21 6HR

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Description of the charity

Abney Park Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 02634036) and a registered charity (registered number 1005334). The Trustees are also Directors of the company.

The Trust is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and its registered office is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High St, London N16 0LH.

The governance and management of the Trust is provided by the Board of Trustees elected by the members and operating in accordance with the articles of association.

The Trust advertises for new trustees when these are required. Between Annual General Meetings, potential new Trustees submit their CV and reasons for wanting to be a Trustee. They are then interviewed by two current Trustees, the Chair, and, if considered suitable, a recommendation is made to the rest of the Board who will then decide whether or not to appoint them. They are then formally put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trust sends new Trustees an induction pack of documents relating to the Trust (including the governing document and the policies and procedures in place) and Charity Commission guidance on the duties of charity Trustees. The Trust also invites new Trustees to observe the meetings of the Board and spend time at Abney Park with staff members.

Abney Park is a 32-acre park in Stoke Newington in the London Borough of Hackney. It was formerly a garden cemetery and includes densely wooded grounds based on a Victorian arboretum. It also contains operational buildings, listed historic monuments, tens of thousands of memorials, and a disused but recently stabilised Grade II listed funerary chapel which is Europe's oldest surviving non-denominational chapel. Abney has significant historical, religious, genealogical, museum/archival, ecological and architectural importance.

Abney Park:

- is a registered Historic Park and Garden, Brown Plaque site, and part of the Stoke Newington Conservation Area
- has a number of listed monuments and buildings
- is a designated statutory Local Nature Reserve, the first such reserve in Hackney

The Trust occupies Abney Park jointly with Hackney Council under a License to Occupy. The arrangement between the Trust and Hackney Council is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding. The Trust receives a £20,000 annual grant from Hackney Council to support its work.

Trust management

In the period covered by this report we have rationalised our subcommittees. Our committees are made up of Trust staff, Trustees and volunteers with expertise in relevant fields. The subcommittees meet regularly and report to the APT Board at each meeting.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Events Committee

Our Events Committee manages the Trust's busy programme of events whether these are on or off site, and the virtual events that we ran during the period. They also discuss and coordinate any event proposals that come in from external organisations.

Committee members: Irena Goldwag (Director), Liz Parr (Volunteer), Dr Romany Reagan (Volunteer), Haydn S (APT staff), Dr Eva Sharpe (Director), Holly Spice (Vice Chair of APT), Nick Toner (Director), Lorraine Tillett (Chair of Abney Park User Group) and Zach Young (APT staff).

Fundraising Committee

Our Fundraising Committee coordinates the Trust's philanthropic approaches, corporate fundraising, grant writing and other fundraising projects.

Committee members: Aroa Fernandez Alvarez (Director), Kate Jones (Director) and Tom Walker (Chair of APT)

Risk assessment

A new and comprehensive risk register was introduced during the reporting period and is reviewed periodically by the Board. The main risks revolve around:

- **Public health and safety** - we have worked closely with Hackney Council to apply HM Government and council social distancing guidance carefully during the year.
- **Impacts of COVID 19** - the impacts of COVID 19 were completely unknown and unfolded throughout the year, both in terms of immediate pressures and long term impact.
- **Grant funding and financial stability** - our major grants are secured annually and this means we have to take a prudent approach to financing projects.
- **Future role and purpose** - the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid will change our operating model and will require new priorities.
- **The Abney Park site** - there are hazards that mean that the public could be at risk. Both Hackney Council and Trust have insurance covering this risk and we work closely with the police to help ensure safety. We maintain a crisis communications plan in case of serious reputational risk.
- **Safe guarding** - as a public site with some history of anti social behaviour we maintain a high level of vigilance and adherence to safeguarding good practice, particularly for our in person events and those involving families. This includes regular liaison with the council and neighbourhood police.
- **Pressure on staff and trustees** - the Trust has a small but busy staff team, and a high reliance on volunteers and trustees. We have trustee succession plans in place, and offer staff regular opportunities to communicate their needs and challenges.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the Trust

The objects for which the Trust is established, as set out in its articles of association, are:

1. The conservation and restoration for the benefit of the public of the property known as Abney Park or Abney Park Cemetery (Abney) as an area of architectural and ecological significance, and historical and religious associations.
2. To promote the benefit of inhabitants of London and in particular the Borough of Hackney without distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
3. The advancement of public education by the establishment and display of a collection or collections of information literature manuscripts and artefacts concerning the history, development, associations and ecology of the cemetery.

The work of the Trust

The Trust works to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives, which includes promoting Abney as an inner-city heritage and community resource. This involves:

- Meeting with Hackney Council's Abney Park Manager and staff regularly to discuss the management of the site and Trust activities.
- Meeting regularly on the sub-committees to consider and progress areas of the Trust's work.
- Developing projects for improving the site and preserving its monuments (see below).
- Organising events and tours for the public on site - both free and ticketed.
- Continuing to look for ways to involve more of the community in Abney and to make it more sustainable.
- Maintaining a programme for volunteers and actively promoting these volunteering opportunities.
- Operating the information centre and the shop.
- Carrying out grave searches and maintenance working closely with families and friends of those buried in Abney Park.

The Trust is also a member of the Abney Park Development Board set up by Hackney Council to secure funding for Abney through a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid and decide on the future development of Abney. That Board now helps oversee the development of the project.

Responding to COVID 19 – 2020/21

The reporting period covered by this Annual Report was one of the most extraordinary in our lifetimes. This report covers the period running from shortly after national lockdowns began. This coincided with a new Chair and the employment of a new Trust Coordinator.

When lockdown began we took the decision to continue to operate. A combination of our core purpose, the fact the park remained open and restrictions on the furlough scheme informed that approach. In hindsight that has proved to be a very important judgement and has allowed us to radically transform the approach to our business.

For example, this meant:

- closing our offices and visitors' centre to the public
- requiring our staff to work from home
- moving our activities online - for example talks and events
- suspending much of our volunteering programme
- offering a virtual service to commemorate graves for families and friends unable to visit
- changing our approach to fundraising

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

As the year went on, and in common with many other local amenities across the world, we noticed a huge increase in people using the park and engaging with us about the special peace and tranquillity that it provides in an inner London borough. This spurred us on as we began to better appreciate the value that Abney brings to people.

Activities during 2020/2021

The following activities were carried out throughout the year to achieve the Trust's charitable objectives:

Events and engagement

Due to COVID 19 the Trust has had to transform the way it works under very challenging circumstances. Nearly all of our normal activities were prohibited by social distancing restrictions. This meant cancelling events, fayres, tours, walks and volunteering. Our visitors' centre and shop were forced to close.

Despite these restrictions – and thanks to our fantastic staff – we quickly pivoted our work to operate online events and engagement. This allowed us to reach new audiences and start to provide a significant archive of permanent events and informative talks. In overall numbers this included:

- 2 month-long social media campaigns 19 online events in total with 1,563 attendees
- 10 (of 19) free online events with 1,235 attendees
- 9 (of 19) paid events with 327 attendees
- 5 virtual chapel performances in 360 degree view with 880 views
- 2 month-long social media campaigns

This meant quickly learning how to video record and live stream events. This was done through a series of experiments with different platforms. Initially we streamed on YouTube via Skype and OBS, and later moved to Zoom. We also changed the ticketing service from Eventbrite to Ticket Tailor and this allowed us to manage events and engage with attendees much more effectively.

Events we are particularly proud of during this period include:

- 180th Anniversary online events - celebrating the anniversary in May 2020 with participants from around the world¹
- Radio Lento recordings - unique audio recordings capturing the park's soundscape, including on Christmas Day morning²
- Chapel recordings - giving local musicians a chance to perform during lockdown in the chapel³
- Colin Sell Music Hall documentary - a special collaboration celebrating the lives of Abney Park's Music Hall stars⁴
- Ecology of Abney online talk with Russell Miller - a brilliant and accessible overview of Abney's deep ecology⁵

We have continued to improve our online presence. Our refreshed website has more content and is a permanent archive of talks and events. We have also invested in new technology and equipment to improve our digital output.

We also began to use social media more actively both to promote the park, engage the community and forge new collaborations. During COVID 19 this became absolutely vital and much credit must go to our new Trust Coordinator for experimenting with new ways of developing content and building new collaborations.

¹ <https://abneypark.org/online-talks-archive/victorian-arcadia-180-anniversary>

² <https://abneypark.org/news/2021/1/4/christmas-day-birdsong-in-abney-park-captured-in-sound-postcard>

³ <https://abneypark.org/chapel-recordings>

⁴ <https://abneypark.org/online-talks-archive/colin-sell-presents-abney-park-music-hall-stars>

⁵ <https://abneypark.org/online-talks-archive/2021/3/7/the-ecology-of-abney-park>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Grave searches

One of our most important roles is offering a grave search facility for those looking for relatives, friends or historic figures. Our team responds to these questions with dedication and compassion. Despite the testing circumstances of COVID 19, between March 2020 and March 2021 Trust staff checked the burial records for 156 potential grave searches and completed 75 COVID-safe searches on site.

Monument restoration

We have remained focused on promoting the history and stories of Abney Park.

During the reporting year we maintained our commitment to cleaning and maintaining the Commonwealth War Graves on the site, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We maintain both individual Commonwealth War Graves and also the Commonwealth War Memorial at the heart of the park. We maintain the latter despite occasional misuse by members of the public. We are very grateful for the grant funding we receive from the CWGC to support this work.

We were delighted to arrange for the cleaning of the Civilian War Memorial commemorating lives lost in World War Two ahead of the eightieth anniversary⁶.

We also completed the cleaning and maintenance of two further listed monuments - the outstanding Celtic 'Reed' Cross⁷ (a listed monument) and the Williams Sarcophagus⁸. These restorations were chosen previously following a vote by park users.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Restoration project

In January 2020 Hackney Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a major programme of restoration work for the park and its amenities.⁹ This is a huge opportunity for the park and we are grateful for many of our predecessors who campaigned over many years to protect and save the park.

In this reporting period, much of the activity on this has involved working closely with Hackney Council to shape the implementation of the plans as further preparatory work is completed. Writing in late summer 2021 with works about to begin on site, we look towards a period of excitement and change. This is a fantastic opportunity for Abney Park to become a major London landmark when the works are completed.

Staffing

In terms of staffing, we employed two part-time members of staff throughout the year. As noted above a new Trust Coordinator started employment with us in March 2020. We have carefully managed our staffing costs to respond to our challenging budget position. At no stage have we had to reduce hours or rely on the Government's furlough scheme.

During the reporting period we also instituted formal performance and development reporting (such as appraisals) and harmonised the majority of terms and conditions for our two staff members. We take our responsibility seriously and one of our Trustees takes a dedicated lead on HR matters to ensure we live up to these ambitions.

Both our staff members have shown outstanding leadership and personal resilience coping with the challenges of COVID 19 and the Board would like to record their formal acknowledgement of their work, professionalism and dedication during this period.

⁶<https://abneypark.org/news/2020/9/15/abney-park-trust-restores-war-memorial-ahead-of-the-ww2-bombings-80th-anniversary>

⁷ <https://abneypark.org/news/2020/11/14/reed-celtic-cross-receives-professional-clean>

⁸ <https://abneypark.org/news/2021/2/27/the-williams-slate-sarcophagus-repair-is-complete>

⁹ <https://abneypark.org/news/2020/1/11/abney-park-set-for-44m-improvement-work>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Volunteer support

For much of the reporting year most of our volunteering activities were suspended. We deeply regret this and we are grateful to all those who have taken up volunteering from summer 2021. We have been lucky to rely on a number of volunteers who have continued to be active on our committees (meeting virtually) as well as those who generously have given their time to host talks and events, especially during lockdown. We rely on volunteers immensely to support the maintenance of the park and the work of the Trust. We look forward to being able to give a fuller account of the volunteer contribution in next year's annual report.

We also continue to work with Hackney Council on Abney Unearthed¹⁰ - the project to re-map Abney Park. This aims to create an online searchable map, add missing information to the burial records, research the various residents of Abney Park and bring their stories to light. The project was funded by NLHF and Hackney Council and is now part of the Activity Plan which sits alongside the wider restoration project.

COVID 19 meant that on site volunteering was unable to recommence until June 2021. Since resuming, volunteer numbers have averaged around 10-13 people per week, as they have in previous years. Abney Unearthed has now checked the burial details of almost 43,000 people, adding 869 missing entries. The project has enabled successful completion of 9 grave searches in previously unmapped areas and 5 for those in previously unmapped common graves. Research has also progressed well, with 5 new volunteers joining the research team and just under 200 family histories recorded.

Fundraising

The Trust remains incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed financially to its work. This includes generous donations from across our community.

In March 2020, and in anticipation of the challenges that COVID 19 might bring, we began a concerted fundraising campaign. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. We hit our £10,000 target within two months and have continued to receive donations through our CAF donation page. In September 2021, after the reporting period ended, we reached over £15,000.

In addition to the community fundraising we have also benefited from two emergency COVID 19 grants.

- **Historic England** - £5,000 in unrestricted funds. Awarded 22nd May 2020
- **National Lottery Heritage Fund** - £10,000 restricted funds used to help transfer events online by buying more equipment. Awarded 16th September 2020

We secured two places for the 2020 London Marathon which was due to take place in April 2020 but was postponed because of COVID 19. Both runners will run the Marathon in October 2021.

Board composition

As the year has passed we have continued to make changes to the Board to bring in the skills we need. During the COVID 19 crisis we appointed three new Trustees. Due to changing personal circumstances only two of those Trustees were able to make the commitment permanent. More generally the Board has enjoyed a period of stability through the year. We have found that meeting virtually has actually made it easier for Board members to attend more regularly. It is another example of positive change in a context of adversity.

Looking ahead

Writing in late summer 2021, we have navigated the challenges of COVID 19 by boosting our online activity and profile and sustaining our activities. We are now running physical volunteering and events again in the park in line with the Government guidance and Hackney Council requirements.

¹⁰ <https://abneypark.org/news/2019/12/5/abney-unearthed-project-update>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We look forward to working with Hackney Council on the comprehensive restoration plans in the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. Preliminary work has begun on site and major works will begin in Autumn 2021. This will be a period of transition for the Trust as we move to a different relationship with Hackney Council and new Council employees start work. We hope to begin the activities during the next reporting year.

We have recently recruited new Board members who bring fresh skills to the Board. We intend to work harder to boost the diversity of our Board and volunteer base in the year ahead to better reflect Hackney's community and broaden the appeal of our events.

Alongside the restoration plans we are also exploring a programme of maintenance and restoration of key listed monuments across the park. We will look for funding to support this.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance

The Trust continues to manage its finances effectively. Overall, the Trust has maintained good progress towards becoming self-financing.

Non-core income this year represents 70.8% of the overall income of the Trust, up 12.6% from 58.2% last year. Sources of income other than the London Borough of Hackney core grant are:

- Donations & legacies: 33.3% of income (up 21.6% - see note 2 for a breakdown)
- Other grants: 30.2% of income (up 21.8% - see note 2 for a breakdown)
- Charitable activities: 5.6% of income (down 11.6% - see note 3 for a breakdown)
- Trading activities: 1.7% of income (down 19.2% - see note 4 for a breakdown)

COVID 19 meant our office was closed for much of this financial year and that we were unable to hold events in the park. The loss of income from grave services, hires and face-to-face events was offset by an increase in donations and grants, and the development of online events.

The cost of fundraising represents 10.3% of our total expenditure, with the remaining 89.7% spent on charitable activities.

Reserves policy

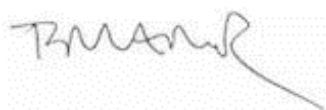
Our reserves remain healthy. The Trust retains reserve funds sufficient to finance core activities for three months and other exceptional costs including redundancies if existing income streams were to cease. At the year end, free reserves were £36,819. This equates to 9 months costs based on 2020/21 expenditure when spending was lower than usual due to the impact of COVID 19. In the longer term, it is anticipated that reserves will revert to between three and six months expenditure.

Reserves are held in an interest-bearing deposit account.

Preparation of the report

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

It was approved, and authorised for issue, by the Trustees on 13 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Tom Walker, Chair of Abney Park Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ABNEY PARK TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2021 as set out on pages 10 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters which I am required to state to them in an independent examiners report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the statement I have given below.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

JOHN SPEED FCA FCIE

JS2 Limited
One Crown Square
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6HR

ABNEY PARK TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	<i>Total Funds 2020 £</i>
	Note				
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	33,460	30,000	63,460	29,583
Charitable activities	3	3,739	-	3,739	8,204
Other trading activities	4	1,178	-	1,178	10,022
Investments: Bank interest		3		3	37
TOTAL INCOME		38,380	30,000	68,380	47,846
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		4,938	-	4,938	22,047
Charitable Activities		10,246	32,719	42,965	39,951
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	15,184	32,719	47,903	61,998
Net income/ (expenditure)/					
Net movement in funds		23,196	(2,719)	20,477	(14,152)
Balances brought forward		13,623	2,719	16,342	30,494
Balances carried forward		36,819	-	36,819	16,342

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

ABNEY PARK TRUST
Registered Company number 02634036
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		1,048		512
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	2,328		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		35,771		18,745	
		38,099		18,745	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(2,328)		(2,915)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			35,771		15,830
NET ASSETS			36,819		16,342
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	11		-		2,719
Unrestricted funds: General fund	11		36,819		13,623
			36,819		16,342

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved and authorised for issue by the directors on 13 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:-



TOM WALKER, Chair



ALISON BEAN, Treasurer

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Statutory information

Abney Park Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address and principal place of business is The South Lodge, Abney Park, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH.

1.2 Basis of accounting and preparation

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore has also prepared the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular, the trustees have considered the continued impact of the COVID 19 outbreak. The trustees have reviewed our forecasts and concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3 Income

Income is accounted for when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

1.5 Stock

Stock is measured at the lower of original purchase cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date. Stock is excluded from the balance sheet, as the year end balance is immaterial.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:-

Stage	33% Straight line
Office equipment	25% Straight line
Furniture and fittings	25% Straight line

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exception of any prepayments and deferred income, all debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Association and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.11 Employee benefits

Short term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

1.12 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is written off as incurred.

1.13 Areas of critical judgement & estimation

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.14 Volunteer time

The Charity works with a number of volunteers who help conserve and improve the landscape at Abney Park. The contribution of this time has not been included in income in the financial statements as the value of this time cannot be reliably measured.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
London Borough of Hackney	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Historic England	6,667	-	6,667	-
National Heritage Lottery Fund	-	10,000	10,000	-
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total grants	10,667	30,000	40,667	24,000
Donations including gift aid	22,793	-	22,793	5,583
	33,460	30,000	63,460	29,583

Of total donations and legacies received the year to 31 March 2020, £20,000 from the London Borough of Hackney and £2,838 of donations were restricted, with the balance being unrestricted.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grave search & maintenance	1,877	-	1,877	2,708
Education and events (including guided tours)	1,862	-	1,862	5,496
	3,739	-	3,739	8,204

4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Location hire	-	-	-	915
Theatre event	729	-	729	7,122
Shop income	449	-	449	1,985
	1,178	-	1,178	10,022

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. EXPENDITURE

CURRENT YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £	<i>Total 2020 £</i>
Raising funds	2,650	63	2,225	4,938	22,047
Charitable activities	18,547	8,848	15,570	42,965	39,951
	21,197	8,911	17,795	47,903	61,998

Support costs are detailed in Note 6 and are allocated on the basis of direct staff costs.

PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Direct Staff costs £</i>	<i>Direct costs £</i>	<i>Support costs £</i>	<i>Total 2020 £</i>
Raising funds	12,114	2,446	7,487	22,047
Charitable activities	17,306	11,948	10,697	39,951
	29,420	14,394	18,184	61,998

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2021 £	<i>Total 2020 £</i>
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	1,164	1,140
	1,164	1,140
Other support costs		
Staff costs	5,299	5,191
Telephone and internet	564	639
Website	511	-
Insurance	2,465	2,553
Alarm system	922	1,338
Small IT equipment	1,254	1,224
Other office costs	2,565	1,455
Rates	-	1,336
Training	-	582
Volunteer expenses	-	220
Accountancy	1,673	1,623
Recruitment	-	233
Marketing	853	354
Depreciation	520	256
Bank charges	5	40
	17,795	18,184

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. EMPLOYEE AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and all members of staff. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £26,496 (2020: £34,611). None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or the previous year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year totalling £31 (2020: 3 trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £206).

	2021 £	2020 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	25,756	33,615
Employer pension contributions	740	996
	<u>26,496</u>	<u>34,611</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Particulars of employees:

The average headcount during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Stage	Short Leasehold	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	3,000	17,323	15,396	19,903	55,622
Additions in the year	-	-	1,055	-	1,055
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,000</u>	<u>17,323</u>	<u>16,451</u>	<u>19,903</u>	<u>56,677</u>
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	3,000	17,323	14,884	19,903	55,110
Charge for the year	-	-	519	-	519
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,000</u>	<u>17,323</u>	<u>15,403</u>	<u>19,903</u>	<u>55,629</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,048</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>512</u>

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9. DEBTORS	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	971	-
Other debtors	1,357	-
	<u>2,328</u>	<u>-</u>

10. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
Taxes and social security	-	285
Accruals	2,328	2,280
Deferred event income	-	350
	<u>2,328</u>	<u>2,915</u>

11. FUNDS

FUNDS IN THE CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
National Lottery					
Heritage Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Isaac Watts					
Monument Restoration	2,719	-	(2,719)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>2,719</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>(32,719)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General fund	<u>13,623</u>	<u>38,380</u>	<u>(15,184)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,819</u>
Total funds	<u>16,342</u>	<u>68,380</u>	<u>(47,903)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,819</u>

The grant from the London Borough of Hackney is to ensure Abney Park is kept open and freely accessible, and the grounds are maintained as a local green resource.

The grant from the National Lottery Heritage funding was towards specific costs in relation to COVID 19.

The Isaac Watts Monument Restoration Fund existed to pay for restoration of the Isaac Watts memorial in Abney Park.

ABNEY PARK TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. FUNDS (continued)

FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2019 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2020 £</i>
Restricted funds:					
LB Hackney Isaac Watts Monument Restoration	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
	7,500	2,838	(7,619)	-	2,719
Total restricted funds	7,500	22,838	(27,619)	-	2,719
Designated funds:					
Isaac Watts Monument Restoration	1,049	-	(1,049)	-	-
General fund	21,945	25,008	(33,330)	-	13,623
Total funds	30,494	47,846	(61,998)	-	16,342

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total at 31 March 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,048	-	1,048
Net current assets	35,771	-	35,771
	36,819	-	36,819

PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total at 31 March 2020 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	512	-	512
Net current assets	13,111	2,719	15,830
	13,623	2,719	16,342

ABNEY PARK TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****13. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR**

	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2020 £</i>
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	6,745	22,838	29,583
Charitable activities	8,204	-	8,204
Other trading activities	10,022	-	10,022
Investments: Bank interest	37		37
TOTAL INCOME	25,008	22,838	47,846
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	22,047	-	22,047
Charitable Activities	12,332	27,619	39,951
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	34,379	27,619	61,998
Net (expenditure) /			
Net movement in funds	(9,371)	(4,781)	(14,152)
Balances brought forward	22,994	7,500	30,494
Balances carried forward	13,623	2,719	16,342