

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

ABNEY PARK TRUST

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	3,000	-	1,055	-	4,055
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	3,000	-	1,055	-	4,055
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	3,000	-	1,055	-	4,055
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
	528	-	528	182

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
	69,110	1,428	70,538	54,527

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.