

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales · Charity number 1133201

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2009-12-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 21 Ormonde Road
London
SW14 7BE

Phone 02088782261

Email secretary@frp.org.uk

Website www.frp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATURAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF RICHMOND PARK (THE "PARK") AND ITS PEACE AND NATURAL BEAUTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, INCLUDING BY SEEKING TO LIMIT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE PARK OF POLICIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY DAMAGE THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE PARK SET OUT IN (2) BELOW; AND (2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC (I) IN RELATION TO THE PARK'S STATUS AS A NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, A SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION AND A CONSERVATION AREA AND (II) GENERALLY IN RELATION TO THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PARK.

Activities: FRP aims to preserve the ecology of Richmond Park (RP) and its peace and tranquility. It promotes a "Tread Lightly" approach to RP through public education. FRP funds projects, and its volunteers: staff a Visitor Centre, do physical works, catalogue and publicise records and artefacts about RP, monitor large-scale events held in RP. FRP publishes guides and runs courses, walks and competitions.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** RICHMOND PARK
- Kingston Upon Thames
- Richmond Upon Thames
- Wandsworth

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£67,220	£71,528	-	-
2023-12-31	£66,272	£52,815	-	-
2022-12-31	£73,926	£88,950	-	-
2021-12-31	£70,045	£95,804	-	-
2020-12-31	£120,669	£64,079	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr HUGH DEIGHTON		2020-01-23
Dr Monique Marie Helene Sarkany		2021-11-24
Helene Feger		2022-01-20
Janet Mary Bostock		2019-04-13
Judith Rosemary Pearson		2022-01-20
NICK COLEMAN		2010-04-24
Neil Brereton		2025-02-26
Nigel Philip Sherwin		2021-11-24
Peter William Allnutt		2023-06-23
Roger Keith Hillyer		2020-05-14

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1133201

Accounts



The Friends of Richmond Park

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity number: 1133201

Trustees' Report**Introduction**

The Trustees of the Friends of Richmond Park present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the objects and activities of the Friends and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the Charity carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Richmond Park is an unincorporated association governed under a Constitution dated 12 November 2009, which sets out its objects and powers, and under Rules dated 8 April 2017 and made pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Friends' Constitution.

The Charity is managed by its trustees who are (re-) elected annually in a general meeting of the Charity. Between annual general meetings, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. New Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the membership. As part of their induction, they receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules, the latest annual report and financial statements, the Charity Commission guidance entitled "The Essential Trustee" and relevant management papers. Trustee meetings are held every two months.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is registered and known as The Friends of Richmond Park (Registration number: 1133201). The principal and registered address of the Friends is 21 Ormonde Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7BE.

The Trustees, all of whom served throughout the year except as noted, are set out below:

Peter Allnutt	
Janet Bostock	
Nick Coleman	
Dr Hugh Deighton	Treasurer
Helene Feger	
Roger Hillyer	Chairman
Chris Mason	
Judith Pearson	Secretary
Dr Vivienne Press	
Dr Monique Sarkany	
Nigel Sherwin	
Lucy Tarleton	Resigned 27 September 2024.

Patrons

We are grateful for the continued support of our patrons: Sir David Attenborough, Clare Balding CBE and Baroness Susan Kramer.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objects and activities

The objects of the Friends, in summary, are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and physical environment of the Park and its peace and natural beauty for the benefit of the public and future generations; and
- advance the education of the public in relation to the Park's status as a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

To achieve these objects, the Friends carries out the following activities:

- volunteering including practical conservation work and litter picking, monitoring events in the Park, staffing the Visitor Centre and organising walks
- campaigning to protect the natural and physical environment of the Park, including its wildlife
- education, including producing information and interpretation materials for both adults and children, and running an activity programme for young families
- fund raising through membership fees and through sales from the Visitor Centre, other local outlets and our online shop; and
- awarding grants for projects that support our objects.

The Friends communicates with the public and its members through a website, a magazine published twice a year, a monthly electronic bulletin, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Threads, YouTube and speaking and displays at public events.

The Friends is run on a voluntary basis and has no paid members of staff.

Achievements and performance

Richmond Park developments

We continued to monitor developments in Richmond Park. The final phase of the three year Richmond Park Restoration capital project which included work on paths, infrastructure, accessible gates and replacement bridges in Isabella plantation and new and replacement fencing was completed in 2024. We emphasised the importance in any changes of preserving the essential character of the Park.

We welcomed the continued rollout of improved signage. The Friends contributed a foundation for this over five years ago, including: carrying out an audit of existing signage in the Park; researching best practice in signage; and organising and carrying out a signage survey to test the impact of different styles of signage.

Cycling

There were increasing concerns at the attitude, behaviour and speed of some cyclists. We support The Royal Parks policy that pedestrians have priority within the Royal Parks and supported their request to the government that the 20mph limit which applies to motorists also applies to cyclists.

Richmond Park police unit

Near the end of the year a threat to the Richmond Park police unit emerged, with proposals that it be disbanded and its officers redistributed to other parts of London. Policing in Richmond

Trustees' Report (continued)

Park would become the responsibility of the local community police team. We are deeply concerned by these latest proposals which, if implemented, would see a further severe reduction in the police coverage of Richmond Park – with adverse implications for visitor safety, protection of wildlife and enforcement of traffic regulations.

Roehampton Restored

The Royal Parks submitted a planning application for £7m improvements to the Roehampton Gate café area, including a new larger café and toilets, with better circulation of pedestrians, cyclists and cars and improvements to the landscaping and biodiversity.

The Royal Parks have consulted with us at each stage of the development over the last five years. We welcome and support the plans, especially the focus on biodiversity and sustainability, but have expressed concern that further work is required on the way cyclists will access the site to improve highway and pedestrian safety.

Petersham Playground

The Royal Parks developed plans to revive and improve the playground near Petersham Gate by installing new equipment, incorporating more accessible opportunities for play, and improving provision for children with additional needs.

We welcomed the more naturalistic approach to the design which should make the playground more fitting for Richmond Park but expressed concern that a dedicated area for den building may encourage den building elsewhere in the Park.

New flight paths planned - a threat to the peace and tranquillity of Richmond Park

We continued to campaign against flight paths over Richmond Park which are being considered by Heathrow Airport Limited as part of its response to national Airspace Modernisation.

Richmond Park is currently largely free of aircraft and their noise, with no arrivals flying over the Park (the westerly arrival path is half a mile north of the Park) and only a small proportion of departures flying across the Park's southern tip.

In 2023 Heathrow produced a shortlist of possible new flight paths in which 17 of the 43 (40%) westerly arrival flight path options would impact Richmond Park. Many of these would pass over Richmond Park at low level with intensive bursts of noise.

After complaints from the Friends and others, the CAA refused to approve the shortlist saying it was not satisfied with Heathrow's stakeholder engagement. Heathrow re-engaged with us and with others in spring 2024 and in July published virtually the same short list which the CAA approved.

Our campaigning has meant that Heathrow has made several commitments regarding Richmond Park. These include committing to reduce potential overflight and / or impact to Richmond Park where possible; to carry out a more detailed biodiversity and tranquillity assessment of Richmond Park in the next stage of the process and to undertake a full Environmental Assessment of the environmental impact on Richmond Park, including engaging with us on the process and methodology for that assessment.

Throughout the year, we have been heavily engaged with Heathrow and other stakeholders including the CAA. We have highlighted our concerns within the local community including through email updates. We met with local politicians including MPs and Richmond Council. In 2023 the London Assembly voted to support the proposal that Heathrow's consultation should

Trustees' Report (continued)

include a "Do Minimum" option. We are pleased to see that, following discussions with us, all are now pressing for serious consideration of the Do Minimum option.

The government and the CAA are consulting on a proposal to set up a new body to centralise and take control of all the London area airports Airspace Modernisation plans, including those currently being developed by Heathrow. We responded to the consultation demanding that any new body must honour the commitments Heathrow has already made about Richmond Park and that it must undertake a full environmental assessment of the impact on the Park.

Wildlife survey in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London

We started a wildlife ecology survey working with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and The Royal Parks. 80 Friends volunteers set out 151 camera traps for three weeks in April recording all nearby wildlife. The cameras captured more than 600,000 images which have been assessed by ZSL. The next phase will be a citizen science project in which members will be invited to identify wildlife in the images.

Publications

Our twice-yearly members' magazine, *Park Life*, provides enjoyable and interesting articles that inform readers about Richmond Park's wildlife, ecology and history and the activities of the Friends and The Royal Parks.

Members continue to receive our monthly and special email bulletins, which continue to have a high open rate.

For the 13th year running, we produced the popular Richmond Park Calendar, which sold out in late December, as well as Christmas cards, individual greetings cards and postcards. Our publications 'Walks with Remarkable Trees', 'Walks in Pembroke Lodge Gardens' and our 'Let's Discover' children's booklets continued to be sold at the Visitor Centre and are now also available in our online shop.

Events and walks

We attended the Richmond May Fair and the Ham Fair to publicise our work.

We again held a popular online Q & A session for members with the Park Manager, Paul Richards.

Our longstanding guided walks continued to take place on the first Saturday of each month.

Discoverers

Discoverers, our activities programme for families with school age children, has gone from strength to strength and it now has over 300 families on its mailing list (100 more than a year ago). Events take place on a number of weekends throughout the year and during school holidays. In 2024, we held 21 major events (10 more than last year) which included a mystery solving morning with the Parks Police and a weekly Story Time with arts and craft activities during the summer holiday. Families learnt about ants, bats, birds, butterflies, fungi, trees, owls, worms and had lots of fun! We are kindly supported by the Hearsom family who let us make use of the Belvedere Suite at Pembroke Lodge. Our events are free of charge and unique in Richmond Park in that children come along with their parents to discover its wildlife together.

Litter picking

Our Adopt-an-Area litter-picking programme continues to thrive and has about 200 volunteers, including young people volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This is the largest number of volunteers of any of our activities. Some volunteers adopt one of 29

Trustees' Report (continued)

areas and others are roaming litter-pickers. Together they make a significant difference to the appearance of the Park.

Our Beverley Brook Litter Clearance team regularly wade through the Brook clearing out rubbish and debris. In 2024 they collected about 35 bags of rubbish including about 500 bottles and cans.

Conservation volunteering

Our conservation volunteers continue to work regularly on Saturday mornings (except in summer) with an average of 15 people at each session. Tasks have included:

- dismantling dens (and using the wood to create leaky dams in streams)
- constructing a kingfisher nest box (funded by the Friends) in a secluded area
- scything bracken to give light to newly planted whips in two enclosures near Sawpit Plantation
- clearing bramble from ant hills on Petersham slope
- clearing rubbish from both Pen Ponds, while the water level was low
- tidying up the Platinum Jubilee Plantation; and
- cutting back bramble to widen the path through Prince Charles Spinney.

The Visitor Centre - information and sales, and the online shop

We continued to operate the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge. More than 60 volunteers ensure it is open every day except Christmas Day. We welcomed more than 50,000 visitors in 2024 and had record sales.

This was the fifth year of our online shop. While this is focused on the pre-Christmas period, it was again kept open all year for the Royal Oak print and selected publications.

Operational improvements

During the year we implemented two significant improvements to our operations.

In the Visitor Centre we implemented a standard piece of software for managing the volunteers' rota. This has provided a more secure system that includes several improved features such as automated reminders of shifts booked and alerts when there are vacancies to be filled.

We have implemented a new membership system for holding our membership records to replace the Excel based system we had used for many years. The new system modernises the way members join the Friends, how we manage memberships and automates the renewal and payment process for our membership fees. For the first time we are able to accept direct debits and by the end of the year 250 members had moved to direct debit payment.

Grants

We funded 30 new standalone trees to be planted in Richmond Park, together with special crates for deer protection, staking, mulch and the watering gator bags. The trees are a mixture of large and smaller saplings. A variety of trees were chosen: white elm; canker and leaf miner-resistant Indian horse chestnut; small leaved lime; alder; wild service; and English elms. The trees will be planted in Sheen Wood, Barn Wood, White Lodge Hill, Spanker's Hill Wood and Platinum Jubilee Woodland surrounds. We also funded a number of whips, young seed-

Trustees' Report (continued)

grown trees which have had no pruning or training, to supplement new scrub planting across the park.

We bought a new buggy to replace the previous buggy which had been acquired in 2012. It supports the work of our Conservation volunteers, our Beverley Brook litter team, our river fly survey team and our Discoverers team.

The funding for both items included income received from sales at The Visitor Centre.

Members and volunteers

At the end of the year, we had about 3,600 members. This includes over 300 volunteers who together work about 15,000 hours, which is worth over £200,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage).

We thank all our volunteers for their hard work, which contributed so much during the year.

For more detailed information about the Friends and our activities, please see our website: www.frp.org.uk.

Plans for the future

The Friends plans to maintain its activities broadly along the present lines.

The Friends will continue to campaign strongly to protect Richmond Park against threats to its peace, natural beauty and wildlife, in particular from new flight paths and developments, in or on the periphery of the Park, that could have an adverse impact on the Park.

Financial review

Membership income continues to be the largest source of income, with sales of Friends of Richmond Park branded items at the Visitor Centre and online also very important.

Our publications and merchandise sales through the Visitor Centre and online continued throughout the year and our sales were boosted for the Christmas period through our offerings of cards and calendars. Both our 2025 Calendar and our Christmas cards provided significant contributions to our income.

We made grants of £18,290 to The Royal Parks for conservation projects in the Park, including tree planting and a new electric buggy to be used in the Park by Friends' volunteers.

The financial position of the Friends continues to be healthy, and current balances stand at £162,649. The restricted fund balance has continued at zero as there were no project-specific fundraising campaigns during 2024.

Our balances at the end of the year were higher than required by our reserves policy so the Charity is well placed to continue to fund projects which further our objects.

Reserves policy

Within the unrestricted funds is a designated amount of £25,000 that has been set aside to cover potential urgent campaign expenses (which could support the Charity's activities, without recourse to campaign funding and the delays which might result). In addition, the policy of the Trustees is to maintain other reserves at more than six months and less than twelve months of general expenditure, which corresponds to £40,000 for 2024 (ie 9 months of general expenditure).

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Friends' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Friends will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Friends and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution of the Friends. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

The Independent Examiners, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Roger Hillyer
Chairman

Date: 16 January 2025

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members of the Friends of Richmond Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Friends of Richmond Park (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Richard Rhodes
Chartered Accountant
Feltons, Independent Examiners
1 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1PL

10th February 2025

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2024

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	2	30,680	-	30,680	28,604
Donations		2,946	-	2,946	4,801
Gift Aid	3	5,871	-	5,871	5,673
Interest		3,828	-	3,828	1,010
Sponsorship		2,500	-	2,500	5,000
Publications & VC Sales		16,632	-	16,632	16,083
Merchandise (Online)		4,763	-	4,763	5,101
Total incoming resources		67,220	-	67,220	66,272
Resources expended on charitable activities					
Magazine & Newsletters		(6,232)	-	(6,232)	(7,112)
Governance & administration		(7,670)	-	(7,670)	(3,023)
Discoverers		(810)	-	(810)	(1,548)
Adopt An Area		(603)	-	(603)	(893)
Walks, talks & films		-	-	-	(457)
Other volunteering		(2,355)	-	(2,355)	(1,607)
Website hosting and maintenance		(4,786)	-	(4,786)	(4,819)
Heathrow Campaign		(11,807)	-	(11,807)	(4,851)
ZSL Wildlife Survey		(10,000)	-	(10,000)	-
Merchandise & publications		(8,975)	-	(8,975)	(12,631)
Grants		(18,290)	-	(18,290)	(15,874)
Total resources expended	5	(71,528)	-	(71,528)	(52,815)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(4,308)	-	(4,308)	13,457
Total funds brought forward		166,957	-	166,957	153,500
Total funds carried forward		162,649	-	162,649	166,957

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2024 (continued)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets	6	7,500	7,500
Total fixed assets		7,500	7,500
Current Assets			
Stock	7	1,722	2,631
Debtors	8	5,700	5,700
Cash at bank and in hand	9	147,727	151,126
Total current assets		155,149	159,457
Current liabilities	10	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		-	-
Net assets/(liabilities)		162,649	166,957
Funds of the Charity	11		
		£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		166,957	153,500
Current year		(4,308)	13,457
Total Unrestricted funds		162,649	166,957
Total Restricted funds		-	-
Total charity funds		162,649	166,957

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 January 2025 and were signed on their behalf by:

Dr Hugh Deighton
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

(* indicates a general note whose number is not included in the Financial Statements above)

1* General information and basis of preparation

The Friends of Richmond Park is a UK registered charity, number 1133201, and governed by its constitution dated 12 November 2009.

The address of the principal office of the Charity is given on page 1 of this report.

The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees' Report above.

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)" - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Friends of Richmond Park 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 note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

2 Incoming resources - subscriptions

Incoming resources from regular subscriptions are considered as gifts and therefore recognised on receipt.

3 Gift Aid

Tax credits receivable from Gift Aid donations are recognised in the same period as the gift to which the claim relates.

4* Donated services and volunteer help

The value of donated services and volunteer help is not included in the financial statements but is described in the Trustees' report above (in the section on "Members and volunteers").

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided.

5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are recognised in the financial statements when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the disbursement of that grant which remain in the control of the Charity.

No Trustee received any remuneration during the reporting period. The Trustees were able to recover reasonable expenses incurred by them wholly, necessarily and exclusively for the Friends: these included the purchase of equipment to support volunteering activities as well as stationery and software supplies for magazines and membership activities. The total cost reimbursed to trustees in respect of such expenditure during the year amounted to £4,464 paid to nine trustees (2023: £4,619 paid to nine trustees). There were no related party transactions.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The independent examination was conducted on a pro-bono basis by Feltons and all other services were provided on a voluntary basis by Trustees and volunteers.

6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Gains/(losses) on investments" in the Statement of financial activities, if applicable.

Fixed asset investments currently comprise only the original artwork of the Royal Oak drawn by Mark Frith. The Trustees reviewed the valuation of the artwork at the year end and believe that there has been no change in the fair value since it was acquired.

7 Valuation of stock

Publications, comprising books and prints for sale, are valued at the lower of the cost of production and net realizable value. The cost of publications sold is charged to the statement of financial activities, together with any royalties paid or payable on sales, for all copies sold or provided on a complimentary basis.

300 copies of the small Royal Oak print by Mark Frith were bought in 2021 in the expectation that they would sell over several years. 1,000 copies of the "Walks in Pembroke Lodge Gardens" booklet were printed during 2023. The cost price of unsold copies of both items is included in the unsold stock amount.

The costs of leaflets and booklets for free distribution are included in full in the statement of financial activities as they are incurred.

8 Debtors

The only debtor is the repayment of tax due for the year from HMRC in Gift Aid, which has been accrued.

9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

10 Liabilities and Creditors

The Charity's policy is to pay creditors in a timely manner and there are no outstanding creditors or other liabilities at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**11 The analysis of total funds as at 31 December 2024 is shown below:**

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	Other	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Total fixed assets	-	7,500	-	7,500
Total current assets	25,000	130,149	-	155,149
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	25,000	137,649	-	162,649
				166,957

Unrestricted funds are represented by general funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Friends. These arise from the net surplus generated on ordinary activities during a financial year.

Within unrestricted funds, there is a designated balance of £25,000 set aside for immediate access to provide funding for any campaign in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without recourse to campaign funding.

The **restricted funds** represent amounts received, granted, donated or bequeathed to the Friends for specific purposes, primarily for conservation projects.

The restricted funds were all reduced to zero at the end of 2022. There were no movements in the restricted funds for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024, which all remained at zero throughout the year since there were no project-specific fundraising events in those years.

12* Financial instruments

Except for fixed asset investments, the Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments, which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

End of Notes to the Financial Statements.

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1133201

Accounts



The Friends of Richmond Park

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity number: 1133201

Trustees' Report**Introduction**

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The Charity is managed by its trustees who are (re-)elected annually in a general meeting of the Charity. Between annual general meetings, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. New Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the membership. As part of their induction, they receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules, the latest annual report and financial statements, the Charity Commission guidance entitled "The Essential Trustee" and relevant management papers. Trustee meetings are held every two months.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is registered and known as The Friends of Richmond Park (Registration number: 1133201). The principal and registered address of the Friends is 21 Ormonde Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7BE.

The Trustees, all of whom served throughout the year except as noted, are set out below:

Peter Allnutt	From 23 June 2023
Janet Bostock	
Nick Coleman	
Dr Hugh Deighton	Treasurer
Helene Feger	
Roger Hillyer	Chairman
Chris Mason	
Judith Pearson	Secretary
Dr Vivienne Press	
Dr Monique Sarkany	
Nigel Sherwin	
Lucy Tarleton	

Patrons

We are grateful for the continued support of our patrons: Sir David Attenborough, Clare Balding CBE and Baroness Susan Kramer.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objects and activities

The objects of the Friends, in summary, are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and physical environment of the Park and its peace and natural beauty for the benefit of the public and future generations; and
- advance the education of the public in relation to the Park's status as a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

To achieve these objects, the Friends carries out the following activities:

- volunteering including practical conservation work and litter picking, monitoring events in the Park, staffing the Visitor Centre and organising walks
- campaigning to protect the natural and physical environment of the Park, including its wildlife
- education, including producing information and interpretation materials for both adults and children, and running an activity programme for young families
- fund raising through membership fees and through sales from the Visitor Centre, other local outlets and our online shop; and
- awarding grants for projects that support our objects.

The Friends communicates with the public and its members through a website, a magazine published twice a year, a monthly electronic bulletin, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Threads, YouTube and speaking and displays at public events.

The Friends is run on a voluntary basis and has no paid members of staff.

Achievements and performance

Richmond Park – developments

In 2023 The Royal Parks implemented a number of prominent changes to Richmond Park.

The temporary barriers and cones used during the traffic trial were replaced with posts and fencing as the traffic trial had ended in 2022 and its changes made permanent.

New courtesy crossings and traffic management measures were introduced, designed to improve safety and accessibility. We welcome work intended to make the Park safer and more accessible for pedestrians and will keep this under review.

A significant amount of path work was undertaken. The Friends understands the issues caused by increased visitor numbers over a long period of time, climate change and the desire to restore areas to natural habitat creating the need for repair works on paths. However, we expressed our concerns to Park management about the extent of some of these changes and their impact on the essential character of the park.

The toilets at Kingston Gate and Ham Gate were refurbished to incorporate grab'n'go catering facilities. The Friends welcomed the reopening of the WC facilities at Ham Gate, although we are concerned by the potential litter from the new facilities.

Replacement catering kiosks were installed at the Pen Ponds and Broomfield Hill car parks. The Friends welcomed the environmental improvements included in the kiosk design such as generators fuelled by hydro-vegetable oils and solar panels.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Improvements were made to existing skylark protection zones, including enlarging the areas and installing fencing gates to better protect this declining species from walkers and dogs. We have been working with The Royal Parks for several years to improve skylark protection and are pleased with the new measures.

The Royal Parks started to roll out new signage in Richmond Park which we welcomed. The Friends had contributed a foundation for this over the last few years, including: carrying out an audit of existing signage in the Park; researching best practice in signage; and organising and carrying out a signage survey to test the impact of different styles of signage.

The Royal Parks brought in-house the jobs of 26 gardening and maintenance staff who work at Richmond Park and were previously employed by contractors. The Friends strongly opposed the outsourcing in the early 1990s so we welcomed this change. It will strengthen TRP's maintenance and gardening expertise and ability to operate.

The Platinum Jubilee Woodland

The Royal Parks created a new woodland enclosure near Ham Cross, The Platinum Jubilee Woodland. The woodland was planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to celebrate the 70 years of service of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

In March, Friends of Richmond Park patrons Sir David Attenborough and Clare Balding opened the new woodland. The opening event, which was organised by the Friends, included children from the Friends Discoverers programme and from The Queen's Green Canopy Junior Foresters.

The Friends contributed over £29,000 in 2022 to fund the 70 climate-resilient native trees for the new woodland.

New flight paths planned - a threat to the peace and tranquillity of Richmond Park

During the year Heathrow Airport Limited published a shortlist of flight paths being considered as part of its response to the national Airspace Modernisation. Richmond Park is currently largely free of aircraft and their noise, with no arrivals flying over the Park (the westerly arrival path is half a mile north of the Park) and only a small proportion of departures flying across the Park's southern tip.

In Heathrow's shortlist, 17 of the 43 (40%) westerly arrival flight path options impact Richmond Park. If the same proportion of options are eventually chosen it could mean up to 60,000 arrival flights a year overflying the Park, whereas now there are none. Many of these would pass over Richmond Park at low level with intensive bursts of noise.

Throughout the year, the Friends was heavily engaged with Heathrow and other stakeholders, emphasising Richmond Park's special status. We were pleased to see that Richmond Park has been identified as a specific area that should be avoided wherever possible - but are disappointed that by the end of the year this had not led to any options being dropped. We were pleased that The London Assembly unanimously passed a motion highlighting concern that Heathrow had included numerous flight path options impacting Richmond Park.

Publications

Our members' magazine, Park Life, continued to evolve and develop. It has become a twice a year 24 A5 page magazine - issued in May and November - rather than its previous three times a year 16 A5 pages. Members have the same number of pages to read each year, but with

Trustees' Report (continued)

reduced postage and printing costs. Members continue to receive our monthly and special email bulletins.

The Friends published a new, beautifully illustrated 16-page guide, *Walks in Pembroke Lodge Gardens*, offering three distinct walks within the grounds of Pembroke Lodge. The guide includes 40 features, and the walks are all wheelchair accessible and mainly flat.

To encourage membership, we designed and produced A1 posters for A boards, A4 posters for the Park noticeboards, and A5 flyers. We also produced A1 posters and A5 flyers to advertise our Christmas goods and the Visitor Centre. For the 11th year running, we produced the Richmond Park Calendar, this year with a new design, as well as Christmas cards, individual greetings cards and post cards.

Events

We attended the Richmond May Fair and the Duathlon in Richmond Park to publicise our work.

After three years of virtual AGMs because of Covid, we were pleased that our AGM returned to being an in-person event. It included a presentation by Mike Hildesley of Barnes Common and Harry Gray of the South East Rivers Trust on the Beverley Brook.

We again held a popular online Q & A session with the Park Manager, Paul Richards.

We participated with various stalls at the Richmond Park Open Day at Holly Lodge and were pleased to see the return of this event after an extended absence because of Covid.

We launched "Walks in Pembroke Lodge Gardens" with an event in the gardens, with talks and walks.

Discoverers

Discoverers is our activities programme for families with school age children that now has over 200 families on its mailing list. Events take place on a number of weekends throughout the year and during school holidays. In 2023, we held 11 major events, six of which were open to the general public and five were smaller in size and organised for registered Discoverers' families only (registration on the mailing list is free). Our 2023 activities included monthly nature walks on the first Sunday of the month, bat evenings, an owl evening, butterfly and fungi walks and a fish event, as well as Arts and Crafts events and a 'Maths with Trees' event which were held at Pembroke Lodge.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee Woodland celebrations a Discoverers' event was held during the planting session, with 100 children making a little clay tree; and at the launch event a few Discoverers' children were delighted to meet Sir David Attenborough and plant a tree with him.

Litter picking

Our Adopt-an-Area litter-picking programme continues to thrive and has nearly 200 volunteers, including young people volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This is the largest number of volunteers of any of our activities. Some volunteers adopt one of 29 areas and others are roaming litter-pickers. Together they make a significant difference to the appearance of the Park.

Our Beverley Brook Litter Clearance team regularly wade through the Brook clearing out rubbish and debris. In 2023 they collected about 60 bags of rubbish including about 1,000 bottles and cans.

Conservation volunteering

Our conservation volunteers continue to provide valuable and effective support for conservation within the park with about 15 people attending our Saturday morning sessions.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Tasks have included clearing bramble and thinning birch along the path through Sidmouth Wood followed by planting of native shrubs, clearing bramble from ant hills and taking part in the hedgerow planting around Platinum Jubilee Woodland. A team continue to manage the small meadow/orchard at Holly Lodge creating a floristically diverse area.

The Visitor Centre - information and sales, and the online shop

We continued to operate the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge. More than 60 volunteers ensure it is open every day except Christmas Day. Sales increased over 2022.

This was the fourth year of our online shop. While this is focused on the pre-Christmas period, this year we kept it open all year for sale of the Royal Oak print and our two sets of Walks with Remarkable Trees leaflets. Sales increased compared to 2022.

Grants

In 2023 we contributed grants to The Royal Parks to fund a further 30 new trees and their protective crates in various locations around the Park and to fund a Kingfisher bank.

Members and volunteers

At the end of the year, we had about 3,600 members (based on two members for a joint membership). This includes about 300 volunteers who together work about 15,000 hours, which is worth about £200,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage).

We thank all our volunteers for their hard work, which contributed so much during the year.

For more detailed information about the Friends and our activities, please see our website: www.frp.org.uk.

Plans for the future

The Friends plans to maintain its activities broadly along the present lines.

The Friends will continue to campaign strongly to protect Richmond Park against threats to its peace, natural beauty and wildlife, in particular from new flight paths and developments, in or on the periphery of the Park, that could have an adverse impact on the Park.

Financial review

Membership income continues to be the largest source of income, with sales of Friends of Richmond Park branded items at the Visitor Centre and online also very important.

Our publications and merchandise sales through the Visitor Centre and online continued throughout the year and our sales were boosted for the Christmas period through our offerings of cards and calendars. Both our 2024 Calendar and our Christmas cards provided significant contributions to our income.

We made grants of £15,874 to The Royal Parks for conservation projects in the Park.

The financial position of the Friends continues to be healthy and current balances stand at £166,957. The restricted fund balance has continued at zero as there were no project-specific fundraising campaigns during 2023.

Our balances at the end of the year were higher than required by our reserves policy so the Charity is well placed to continue to fund projects which further our objects.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reserves policy

Within the unrestricted funds is a designated amount of £25,000 that has been set aside to cover potential urgent campaign expenses (which could support the Charity's activities, without recourse to campaign funding and the delays which might result). In addition, the policy of the Trustees is to maintain other reserves at more than six months and less than twelve months of general expenditure, which corresponds to £28,000 for 2023 (ie 9 months of general expenditure).

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Friends' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Friends will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Friends and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution of the Friends. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

The Independent Examiners, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Roger Hillyer
Chairman

Date: 18 January 2024

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members of the Friends of Richmond Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Friends of Richmond Park (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Richard Rhodes
Chartered Accountant
Feltons, Independent Examiners
1 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1PL

Date: 7th March 2024

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2023

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 £
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	2	28,604	-	28,604	30,859
Donations		4,801	-	4,801	10,796
Gift Aid	3	5,673	-	5,673	7,172
Interest		1,010	-	1,010	238
Sponsorship		5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Publications & VC Sales		16,083	-	16,083	15,382
Merchandise (Online)		5,101	-	5,101	4,479
Total incoming resources		66,272	-	66,272	73,926
Resources expended on charitable activities					
Magazine & Newsletters		(7,112)	-	(7,112)	(7,179)
Governance & administration		(3,023)	-	(3,023)	(2,879)
Discoverers		(1,548)	-	(1,548)	(180)
Adopt An Area		(893)	-	(893)	(300)
Walks, talks & films		(457)	-	(457)	(2,600)
Other volunteering		(1,607)	-	(1,607)	(1,453)
Website hosting and maintenance		(4,819)	-	(4,819)	(2,875)
Heathrow campaign		(4,851)	-	(4,851)	(443)
Merchandise & publications		(12,631)	-	(12,631)	(12,583)
Grants		(15,874)	-	(15,874)	(58,458)
Total resources expended	5	(52,815)	-	(52,815)	(88,950)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		13,457	-	13,457	(15,024)
Total funds brought forward		153,500	-	153,500	168,524
Total funds carried forward		166,957	-	166,957	153,500

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2023 (continued)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
		£	£
Fixed assets	6	7,500	7,500
Total fixed assets		<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Current Assets			
Stock	7	2,631	1,488
Debtors	8	5,700	6,000
Cash at bank and in hand	9	151,126	138,512
Total current assets		<u>159,457</u>	<u>146,000</u>
Current liabilities	10	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>166,957</u>	<u>153,500</u>
Funds of the Charity	11		
		£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		153,500	126,131
Current year		13,457	27,369
Total Unrestricted funds		<u>166,957</u>	<u>153,500</u>
Total Restricted funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total charity funds		<u>166,957</u>	<u>153,500</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 January 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:

Dr Hugh Deighton
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

(* indicates a general note whose number is not included in the Financial Statements above)

1* General information and basis of preparation

The Friends of Richmond Park is a UK registered charity, number 1133201, and governed by its constitution dated 12 November 2009.

The address of the principal office of the Charity is given on page 1 of this report.

The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees' Report above.

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)" - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Friends of Richmond Park 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 note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

2 Incoming resources - subscriptions

Incoming resources from regular subscriptions are considered as gifts and therefore recognised on receipt.

3 Gift Aid

Tax credits receivable from Gift Aid donations are recognised in the same period as the gift to which the claim relates.

4* Donated services and volunteer help

The value of donated services and volunteer help is not included in the financial statements but is described in the Trustees' report above (in the section on "Members and volunteers").

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided.

5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are recognised in the financial statements when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the disbursement of that grant which remain in the control of the Charity.

No Trustee received any remuneration during the reporting period. The Trustees were able to recover reasonable expenses incurred by them wholly, necessarily and exclusively for the Friends: these included the purchase of equipment to support volunteering activities as well as stationery and software supplies for magazines and membership activities. The total cost reimbursed to trustees in respect of such expenditure during the year amounted to £4,619 paid to nine trustees (2022: £3,661 paid to nine trustees). There were no related party transactions.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The independent examination was conducted on a pro-bono basis by Feltons and all other services were provided on a voluntary basis by Trustees and volunteers.

6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Gains/(losses) on investments" in the Statement of financial activities, if applicable.

Fixed asset investments currently comprise only the original artwork of the Royal Oak drawn by Mark Frith. The Trustees reviewed the valuation of the artwork at the year end and believe that there has been no change in the fair value since it was acquired.

7 Valuation of stock

Publications, comprising books and prints for sale, are valued at the lower of the cost of production and net realizable value. The cost of publications sold is charged to the statement of financial activities, together with any royalties paid or payable on sales, for all copies sold or provided on a complimentary basis.

300 copies of the small Royal Oak print by Mark Frith were bought in 2021 in the expectation that they would sell over several years. 1,000 copies of the new "Walks in Pembroke Lodge Gardens" booklet were printed during 2023. The cost price of unsold copies of both items is included in the unsold stock amount.

The costs of leaflets and booklets for free distribution are included in full in the statement of financial activities as they are incurred.

8 Debtors

The only debtor is the repayment of tax due for the year from HMRC in Gift Aid, which has been accrued.

9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

10 Liabilities and Creditors

The Charity's policy is to pay creditors in a timely manner and there are no outstanding creditors or other liabilities at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

11 The analysis of total funds as at 31 December 2023 is shown below:

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Designated	Other		
	£	£	£	£
Total fixed assets	-	7,500	-	7,500
Total current assets	25,000	134,457	-	146,000
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	25,000	141,957	-	153,500

Unrestricted funds are represented by general funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Friends. These arise from the net surplus generated on ordinary activities during a financial year.

Within unrestricted funds, there is a designated balance of £25,000 set aside for immediate access to provide funding for any campaign in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without recourse to campaign funding.

The **restricted funds** represent amounts received, granted, donated or bequeathed to the Friends for specific purposes, primarily for conservation projects.

The restricted funds were all reduced to zero at the end of 2022. There were no movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2023, which all remained at zero throughout the year since there were no project-specific fundraising events in 2023.

The movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2022 are shown below for reference.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted general income fund	35,367	1,300	(36,667)	-
Restricted merchandise fund	5,817	-	(5,817)	-
Year of the Tree fund	1,209	-	(1,209)	-
Total Funds	42,393	1,300	(43,693)	-

[The restricted general income fund represented specific small or general donations and other income received in respect of, or to be applied to, specific conservation projects.]

The restricted merchandise fund represented the net surplus realised by the Friends on the sales to the Visitor Centre and other third parties of the range of merchandise specially designed, or produced, for the Friends for specific projects.]

The Year of the Tree fund, which was concluded in 2022, was recorded separately.]

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12* Financial instruments

Except for fixed asset investments, the Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments, which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

End of Notes to the Financial Statements.

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1133201

Accounts



The Friends of Richmond Park

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity number: 1133201

Trustees' Report**Introduction**

The Trustees of the Friends of Richmond Park present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the objects and activities of the Friends and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the objects and activities they have set.

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Richmond Park is an unincorporated association which is governed under a Constitution dated 12 November 2009, which sets out its objects and powers, and under Rules made by the Trustees on 13 May 2010 pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Friends' constitution.

The Trustees are elected in a general meeting of the charity. The Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. New Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the membership. As part of their induction, they receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules, the latest annual report and financial statements, the Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and relevant management papers. Trustee meetings are held every two months.

Reference and administrative details

The charity is registered and known as The Friends of Richmond Park (Registration number: 1133201). The principal and registered address of the Friends is 21 Ormonde Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7BE.

The Trustees, all of whom served throughout the year except as noted, are set out below:

Janet Bostock	
Nick Coleman	
Dr Hugh Deighton	Treasurer
Helene Feger	Trustee from 20 January 2022
Roger Hillyer	Chairman
Max Lankester	Secretary and Trustee until 20 January 2022
Chris Mason	
Judith Pearson	Secretary and Trustee from 20 January 2022
Dr Vivienne Press	
Dr Monique Sarkany	
Nigel Sherwin	
Lucy Tarleton	Trustee from 20 January 2022

The Trustees, having managed the Friends during periods of lockdown using Zoom for their regular meetings, have returned to in-person meetings. The Friends' AGM was held online.

Patrons

We are grateful for the continued support of our patrons: Sir David Attenborough, Clare Balding CBE and Baroness Susan Kramer.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objects and activities

The objects of the Friends, in summary, are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and physical environment of the Park and its peace and natural beauty for the benefit of the public and future generations; and
- advance the education of the public in relation to the Park's status as a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

To achieve these objects, the Friends carries out the following activities:

- volunteering including practical conservation work and litter picking, monitoring events in the Park, staffing the Visitor Centre and organising walks
- campaigning to protect the natural and physical environment of the Park, including its wildlife
- education including producing educational materials, running an education programme for young families
- fund raising through membership fees, sales from the Visitor Centre, from other local outlets and from our online shop which funds projects in the Park; and
- awarding grants for projects that support our objects.

The Friends communicated with the public and its members through a website, a magazine published three times a year, a monthly electronic bulletin, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and attending public events.

The Friends is run on a voluntary basis and has no paid members of staff.

Achievements and performance

Richmond Park – weather and climate

Storm Eunice, which hit the UK on Friday 18 February, led to Richmond Park being closed for three days to ensure the safety of visitors and then to allow staff to assess the damage and make the most dangerous trees safe. About 50 trees were lost in Richmond Park and about another 50 trees were substantially damaged but should survive.

In the summer, a prolonged spell of hot and dry weather was a challenge for Richmond Park. The full impact of that may take some time to assess.

In February we held a Zoom talk for members with Tom Jarvis, Director of Parks at The Royal Parks, on the implications of climate change on Richmond Park and The Royal Parks' response.

The Royal Parks Movement Strategy

In October, The Royal Parks announced that it had decided to make permanent the traffic restrictions that had been trialled. These restrictions are the closure to vehicles of the road between Sheen Gate and Sheen Cross, the road between Robin Hood Car Park and Broomfield Hill Car Park and at weekends and public holidays the road between Richmond Gate and Roehampton Gate. The Friends were pleased that the restrictions were made permanent.

We support pedestrian priority in Richmond Park, so we emphasised the importance of pedestrian safety and have continued to press The Royal Parks for improvements to the existing 'raised-table' crossings and the introduction of additional crossings.

Trustees' Report (continued)

New Park Manager

In May, Simon Richards retired as Park Manager after 25 years in the role. We appreciated Simon's generous support for the Friends and co-operated with him on many conservation projects, campaigns and events.

We have welcomed his successor, Paul Richards, including his attendance since his appointment, at a Trustees' meeting and at a Zoom Question and Answer session for our members.

Protecting skylarks

In March we edited and re-released our film which highlights the importance of skylark protection. In this film Clare Balding asks visitors in skylark protection areas: "*Please keep your dogs on leads, stick to the main footpaths and respect the wildlife – it's their Park*".

Signage

The Friends continued to work with The Royal Parks on developing improved signage to encourage better visitor behaviours. At the start of the year, 30 Friends volunteers conducted a survey we had developed with The Royal Parks into trial signage among visitors to the Park. The results of this and other research have contributed to the improved signage that appeared in the Park from late 2022.

Publications

For the past 10 years, our monthly email bulletin has provided our members with news about the Park and our activities. Meanwhile, our tri-annual 'Newsletter' has evolved to concentrate on articles about the Park's wildlife, projects and challenges, becoming a magazine. To reflect this, in 2022 we gave it a new design and a new title - Park Life. The new look, particularly the covers, has been appreciated by members.

In September, we published our second 'Let's Discover' booklet for children – this time about the Park's history, entitled *Stories from Ancient Oak Trees*. It again features Ollie the owl, now with his new family.

Once again, we produced the Richmond Park Calendar, as well as packs of Christmas cards, individual greeting cards and post cards.

Discoverers

Discoverers is our activities programme for families with school age children. Events take place on a number of weekends throughout the year and during school holidays. During 2022, its activities expanded significantly with 22 events (10 walks and 12 events). They included a Platinum Jubilee Teddy Bears' Picnic held in the Isabella Plantation attended by 120 children and their families, and a half-term History Trail to launch our new Let's Discover booklet.

Events

After a gap of a few years, we attended public events to publicise our work for Richmond Park, including the Ham Fair and the Duathlon in Richmond Park.

Litter picking

Our Adopt-an-Area litter-picking programme continues to thrive and has nearly 200 volunteers, including young people volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This is the largest number of volunteers of any of our activities. Some volunteers adopt one of 29

Trustees' Report (continued)

areas and others are roaming litter-pickers. Together they make a significant difference to the appearance of the Park.

Conservation volunteering

Our conservation volunteers continue to provide valuable and effective support for conservation within the Park, with about 25 people attending our Saturday morning sessions of practical conservation work. In 2022 this included much clearance of rhododendron, coppicing of gorse enclosures and planting of hedges. We now also have a team caring for the small meadow /orchard in Holly Lodge.

The Visitor Centre - information and sales - and the online shop.

Following the end of Covid restrictions, in April the Visitor Centre returned to opening every day with the help of our 60 volunteers. With the Visitor Centre open throughout the year, visitor numbers were the highest since before the pandemic and takings were at a record level.

This was the third year of our online shop. We offered for sale our Calendar, Christmas cards and the Royal Oak print. This made a useful contribution to our income, although sales were lower than in the previous two years.

Flight paths

While Covid and its impact on the aviation industry has delayed Heathrow expansion and the planning process for a third runway, a separate process to re-configure flight paths has begun. Heathrow Airport Limited has begun the process to redesign flight paths as part of the Civil Aviation Authority's UK Airspace Modernisation Programme. We consider that there is a real prospect of flights directly over Richmond Park, which would threaten the survival of Richmond Park as an iconic place, renowned as a haven of tranquillity for people and wildlife. During the year we actively engaged with Heathrow Airport in meetings and workshops and in responses to their design analysis, as well as providing our preliminary assessment of the environmental implications for Richmond Park.

We produced a short film *Richmond Park - the quietest and darkest place in London* so that the unique beauty and tranquillity of Richmond Park can be celebrated and appreciated.

Grants

We were pleased to contribute over £29,000 to fund 70 climate-resilient native trees, for a new tranquil woodland close to Ham Cross as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This nationwide initiative was created to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and has been extended to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her late Majesty. The trees to be planted include oak, Dutch Elm-resistant elm, small-leaved lime and sweet chestnut.

We also donated over £27,000 for veteran tree conservation.

Members and volunteers

At the end of the year, we had about 3,700 members. This includes about 300 volunteers who together work about 15,000 hours, which is worth over £160,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage).

We thank all our volunteers for their hard work, which contributed so much during the year.

For more detailed information about the Friends and our activities, please see our website: www.frp.org.uk.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Plans for the future

The Friends plans to maintain its activities broadly along the present lines.

The Friends will continue to campaign strongly to protect Richmond Park against threats to its peace, natural beauty and wildlife, in particular from new flight paths and developments, in or on the periphery of the Park, that could have an adverse impact on the Park.

Financial review

Membership income has continued at a similar level to 2021, with member numbers remaining almost constant.

Our publications and merchandise sales through the Visitor Centre continued throughout the year and our online sales resumed for the Christmas period through our online shop. Both our 2023 Calendar and our Christmas cards provided significant contributions to our income.

We made grants of £56,368 to The Royal Parks for conservation projects in the Park and we funded an electric bicycle to help the Parks Police with their work.

The financial position of the Friends continues to be healthy and current balances stand at £153,500. The restricted fund balance has reduced to zero after the grants made to The Royal Parks for tree fencing and for the Queen's Green Canopy project.

Our balances at the end of the year were higher than required by our reserves policy so the charity is well placed to continue to fund projects which further our objects.

Reserves policy

Within the unrestricted funds is a designated amount of £25,000 that has been set aside to cover potential urgent campaign expenses (which could support the Charity's activities, without recourse to campaign funding and the delays which might result). In addition, the policy of the Trustees is to maintain other reserves at more than six months and less than twelve months of general expenditure, which corresponds to £34,000 for 2023.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Friends' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Friends will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Friends and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the

Trustees' Report (continued)

Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution of the Friends. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

The Independent Examiners, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Roger Hillyer
Chairman

Date: 5 March 2023

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members of the Friends of Richmond Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Friends of Richmond Park (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Richard Rhodes
Chartered Accountant
Feltons, Independent Examiners
1 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1PL

Date: 6/3/23

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2022

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	2	30,859	-	30,859	30,034
Donations		9,496	1,300	10,796	4,464
Gift Aid	3	7,172	-	7,172	6,096
Interest		238	-	238	301
Sponsorship		5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Publications & VC Sales		15,382	-	15,382	12,615
Merchandise (Online)		4,479	-	4,479	11,535
Total incoming resources		72,626	1,300	73,926	70,045
Resources expended on charitable activities					
Magazine & Newsletters		(7,179)	-	(7,179)	(7,275)
Governance & administration		(2,879)	-	(2,879)	(2,266)
Discoverers		(180)	-	(180)	-
Light and Sound Surveys		-	-	-	(24,163)
Adopt An Area		(300)	-	(300)	(1,417)
Walks, talks & films		(2,600)	-	(2,600)	(2,226)
Other volunteering		(1,453)	-	(1,453)	(598)
Website hosting and maintenance		(2,875)	-	(2,875)	(1,829)
Website development		-	-	-	(805)
Heathrow campaign		(443)	-	(443)	-
Merchandise & publications		(12,583)	-	(12,583)	(12,330)
Grants		(14,765)	(43,693)	(58,458)	(42,895)
Total resources expended	5	(45,257)	(43,693)	(88,950)	(95,804)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		27,369	(42,393)	(15,024)	(25,759)
Total funds brought forward		126,131	42,393	168,524	194,283
Total funds carried forward		153,500	-	153,500	168,524

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2022 (continued)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	<u>2022</u>	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets	6	7,500	7,500
Total fixed assets		<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Current Assets			
Stock	7	1,488	1,980
Debtors	8	6,000	5,000
Other prepayments	9	-	820
Cash at bank and in hand	10	138,512	153,224
Total current assets		<u>146,000</u>	<u>161,024</u>
Current liabilities	11	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>153,500</u>	<u>168,524</u>
Funds of the Charity	12		
		£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		126,131	119,107
Current year		27,369	7,024
Total Unrestricted funds		<u>153,500</u>	<u>126,131</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted general income fund		-	35,367
Restricted merchandise fund		-	5,817
Year of the Tree fund		-	1,209
Total Restricted funds		<u>-</u>	<u>42,393</u>
Total charity funds		<u>153,500</u>	<u>168,524</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 January 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:

Dr Hugh Deighton
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

(* indicates a general note whose number is not included in the Financial Statements above)

1* General information and basis of preparation

The Friends of Richmond Park is a UK registered charity, number 1133201, and governed by its constitution dated 12 November 2009.

The address of the principal office of the charity is given on page 1 of this report.

The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees' Report above.

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)" - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Friends of Richmond Park 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 note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, and are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Incoming resources - subscriptions

Incoming resources from regular subscriptions are considered as gifts and therefore recognised on receipt.

3 Gift Aid

Tax credits receivable from Gift Aid donations are recognised in the same period as the gift to which the claim relates.

4* Donated services and volunteer help

The value of donated services and volunteer help is not included in the financial statements but is described in the Trustees' report above (in the section on "Members and volunteers").

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided.

5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are recognised in the financial statements when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the disbursement of that grant which remain in the control of the charity.

No Trustee received any remuneration during the reporting period. The Trustees were able to recover reasonable expenses incurred by them wholly, necessarily and exclusively for the Friends: these included the purchase of equipment to support volunteering activities as well as stationery and software supplies for newsletters and membership activities. The total cost reimbursed to trustees in respect of such expenditure during the year amounted to £3,661 paid to nine trustees (2021: £2,393 paid to six trustees). There were no related party transactions.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The independent examination was conducted on a pro-bono basis by Feltons and all other services were provided on a voluntary basis by Trustees and volunteers.

6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Gains/(losses) on investments" in the Statement of financial activities, if applicable.

Fixed asset investments comprise the original artwork of the Royal Oak drawn by Mark Frith. The trustees reviewed the valuation of the artwork at the year end and believe that there has been no change in the fair value since it was acquired.

7 Valuation of stock

Publications, comprising books and prints for sale, are valued at the lower of the cost of production and net realizable value. The cost of publications sold is charged to the statement of financial activities, together with any royalties paid or payable on sales, for all copies sold or provided on a complimentary basis.

300 copies of the small Royal Oak print by Mark Frith were bought in 2021 in the expectation that they would sell over several years. The purchase price of unsold copies is included in the unsold stock amount.

The costs of leaflets and booklets for free distribution are included in full in the statement of financial activities as they are incurred.

8 Debtors

The only debtor is the repayment of tax due from HMRC in Gift Aid, which has been accrued.

9 Other prepayments

Other prepayments in 2021 comprised the remaining stock of postage stamps purchased in advance of an increase in rates. All remaining stamps brought forward from 2021 were used in 2022 and there is no intention to buy further stamps in bulk in future.

10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

11 Liabilities and Creditors

The charity's policy is to pay creditors in a timely manner and there are no outstanding creditors or other liabilities at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12 The analysis of total funds as at 31 December 2022 is shown below:

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Designated	Other		
	£	£	£	£
Total fixed assets	-	7,500	-	7,500
Total current assets	25,000	121,000	-	146,000
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	25,000	128,500	-	153,500
				168,524

Unrestricted funds are represented by general funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Friends. These arise from the net surplus generated on ordinary activities during a financial year.

Within unrestricted funds, there is a designated balance of £25,000 set aside for immediate access to provide funding for any campaign in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without recourse to campaign funding.

The restricted funds represent amounts received, granted, donated or bequeathed to the Friends for specific purposes, primarily for conservation projects.

The restricted general income fund represents specific small or general donations and other income received in respect of, or to be applied to, conservation projects.

The restricted merchandise fund represents the net surplus realised by the Friends on the sales to the Visitor Centre and other third parties of the range of merchandise specially designed, or produced, for the Friends for specific projects. This excludes the Year of the Tree fund which was concluded in 2022.

The movements in the **restricted funds** for the year ended 31 December 2022 are shown below.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted general income fund	35,367	1,300	(36,667)	-
Restricted merchandise fund	5,817	-	(5,817)	-
Year of the Tree fund	1,209	-	(1,209)	-
Total Funds	42,393	1,300	(43,693)	-

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The comparable movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2021 are shown below.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted general income fund	25,086	10,281	-	35,367
Restricted merchandise fund	5,986	8,915	(9,084)	5,817
Year of the Tree fund	37,721	-	(36,512)	1,209
Elm Walk appeal fund	6,383	-	(6,383)	-
Total Funds	75,176	19,196	(51,979)	42,393

13* Financial instruments

Except for fixed asset investments, the Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments, which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

End of Notes to the Financial Statements.

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1133201

Accounts



The Friends of Richmond Park

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Charity number: 1133201

Trustees' Report

Introduction

The Trustees of the Friends of Richmond Park present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the objects and activities of the Friends and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the objects and activities they have set.

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Richmond Park is an unincorporated association which is governed under a Constitution dated 12 November 2009, which sets out its objects and powers, and under Rules made by the Trustees on 13 May 2010 pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Friends' constitution.

The trustees are elected in a general meeting of the charity. The Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. New Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the membership. As part of their induction, they receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules, the latest annual report and financial statements, the Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and relevant management papers. Trustee meetings are held every two months.

Reference and administrative details

The charity is registered and known as The Friends of Richmond Park (Registration number: 1133201). The principal and registered address of the Friends is 21 Ormonde Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7BE.

The Trustees, all of whom served throughout the year except as noted, are set out below:

Janet Bostock	
Nick Coleman	
Ron Crompton	Chairman and Trustee until 24 April 2021
Dr Hugh Deighton	Treasurer
Teresa Grafton	Until 24 April 2021
Richard Gray	Until 18 November 2021
PJ Greeves	Until 10 April 2021
Roger Hillyer	Secretary until 24 April 2021; Chairman from 24 April 2021
Max Lankester	Secretary and Trustee from 24 April 2021
Chris Mason	
Dr Vivienne Press	
Steve Sandham	Until 18 November 2021
Dr Monique Sarkany	From 24 November 2021
Nigel Sherwin	From 24 November 2021

PJ Greeves, a trustee for more than 10 years and whose work for the Friends included leading our events, died in April 2021. He is much missed by the other Trustees.

We are grateful for the significant contributions over many years made by the trustees who stood down during the year, in particular Ron Crompton who stood down as Chairman after 14 years.

Trustees' Report (continued)

The trustees' management of the Friends continued despite periods of lockdown using Zoom for their regular meetings. The Friends' AGM was held online.

Patrons

We are grateful for the continued support of our patrons: Sir David Attenborough, Clare Balding and Baroness Susan Kramer.

Objects and activities

The objects of the Friends, in summary, are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and physical environment of the Park and its peace and natural beauty for the benefit of the public and future generations; and
- advance the education of the public in relation to the Park's status as a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

To achieve these objects, the Friends' volunteers undertake practical conservation work and litter-picking, monitor events in the Park, staff the Visitor Centre, organise public walks and courses, produce educational materials and run an education programme for young families.

The Friends also funds conservation projects, campaigns on issues affecting the Park, and communicates with the public and its members including through a website, a Facebook page, a newsletter three times a year, a monthly e-bulletin, Twitter and Instagram. The Friends is run on a voluntary basis and has no paid members of staff.

We raise funds for our activities through membership fees and sales from the Visitor Centre, from other local outlets and from our online shop.

Achievements and performance

COVID, the Park and the Friends

Increased visitor numbers during the winter's Covid restrictions plus heavy rain caused much damage particularly to paths and put the Friends usual activities on hold. We compensated with making 'Walks with Remarkable Trees' available to buy online and by holding two webinars: one on trees (see below) and the other with broadcaster and writer David Lindo, which included a new Friends' film on migrants and resident birds in the Park. With the lifting of restrictions, the paths started to improve and our activities resumed: Conservation volunteers and Adopt-an-Area litter pickers restarted in March; the Visitor Centre reopened in April and our Saturday morning guided walks began again in June.

Through traffic and car parking charges

In March, The Royal Parks announced the results of their consultation on the traffic trial restrictions in Richmond Park and an extension of the trial to March 2022 to collect additional data. The trial restrictions had widespread support and we considered this support and the benefits were sufficient to implement the restrictions on a permanent basis. We continue to press for improvements to the conditions for pedestrians crossing the road.

Also in March, The Royal Parks announced that it would, subject to parliamentary approval, go ahead with proposed car parking charges. As proposed by the Friends, there were two changes from the consultation, a reduction in the weekday hours, and alignment of the weekend charges. In our view, car-parking charges are a reasonable way to tackle car park congestion at

Trustees' Report (continued)

weekends and bank holidays, reduce weekday commuter parking, encourage more non-car travel to the Park and fund the traffic-related infrastructure of the Park.

Light and noise surveys

In 2021 we commissioned two separate independent expert reports into the light and the noise in Richmond Park. The light survey showed that the light level virtually everywhere in the Park is equivalent to a rural area, with some places being very dark. The report also highlighted areas where light spillage could be reduced.

The noise survey showed that the Park is exceptionally quiet at night at 23dB. During the day the average noise rises to 40-50dB, equivalent to a typical office. The noise is partly due to background and traffic noise outside the Park and partly due to people talking loudly or calling their dog, to birds (such as parakeets!) and to traffic in the Park. While aircraft operations at the time of the survey were low because of COVID, the few that did fly over created noise levels of 70-80dB.

These reports provide excellent records of the conditions in Richmond Park. The Friends has formed a small monitoring group to continue this work.

Year of the Tree

With COVID restrictions reducing what was possible, we extended '2020 The Year of the Tree' into 2021. Our activities in 2021 included a webinar that included a new film 'The Remarkable Trees of Richmond Park' featuring our new patron Clare Balding, over 400 people attended, and, in the spring, the last of our seasonal Tree Photography competitions. The final event was the launch in September of our Let's Discover activity booklet for children about trees featuring Olly the little owl.

During the two years, we donated £70,000 for tree conservation works in Richmond Park and raised awareness and understanding of the importance of trees to Richmond Park.

Protecting skylarks

In March we produced a film highlighting the importance of skylark protection areas in the Park presented by Clare Balding. The film, in which Clare meets dog owners, bird experts and Park Manager Simon Richards, explains why signs and some fencing have been installed to alert visitors to breeding skylarks.

Heathrow

While COVID and its impact on the aviation industry has delayed Heathrow expansion and the planning process for a third runway, we still face the prospect of re-configured flight paths in the southeast of England with flights directly over Richmond Park ('airspace modernisation'). Our campaign against them continues.

Signage

The Friends continues to work with The Royal Parks to develop better signage in the Park to encourage helpful visitor behaviours. At the end of the year, 30 Friends volunteers supported this by carrying out a survey into trial signage.

Conservation Grants

The Friends was the main funder of a tree and plant quarantine area in the existing nursery area at Isabella plantation, contributing £29,000. We also funded tools for removing tree roots to help our Conservation volunteers, chestnut pale fencing and posts to protect dead wood, a

Trustees' Report (continued)

further tranche of fencing for veteran tree enclosures and the construction of chestnut pale fencing around seedling hawthorn trees.

The Visitor Centre, online sales and Friends' calendar and Christmas cards

Overall sales were nearly back to pre-Covid levels, and those of the 2022 Calendar and Christmas Cards were actually higher and raised a record £13,000. A wonderful effort by all the volunteers involved with the Visitor Centre and the online shop.

Members and volunteers

Membership increased by 18% during the year and we now have over 3,800 members. We think the increase is partly a continuation of a trend over the last few years as we have become better known and partly from the large number of new visitors during COVID.

We now have nearly 300 volunteers; the increase is largely due to more Adopt-an-Area litter pickers. In a normal, non-COVID year our volunteers typically work a total of around 15,000 hours and contribute over £160,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage). We thank all our volunteers for their hard work and flexibility during another very difficult year.

For more detailed information on these topics, please see individual articles in the 2021 newsletters, all of which are available on our website: www.frp.org.uk.

Plans for the future

The Friends plans to maintain its activities broadly along the present lines. A major priority will be the resumption of activities as legal restrictions and government guidelines allow.

The Friends will continue to campaign strongly to protect Richmond Park against threats to its peace, natural beauty and wildlife, in particular from new flight paths, and developments on the periphery of the Park that could have an adverse impact on the Park.

Financial review

Membership income has continued to increase as more people joined the Friends.

Our publications and merchandise sales through the Visitor Centre were restored in April and our online sales resumed for the Christmas period through our online shop. Both our 2022 Calendar and our Christmas Cards provided significant contributions to our income.

We made grants of £42,895 to The Royal Parks for conservation projects in the Park and funded light and sound surveys of the Park.

The financial position of the Friends continues to be healthy and current balances stand at £168,524 with £42,393 in the restricted fund, which has to be used for specific purposes nominated by donors, and £126,131 in the unrestricted fund.

We expect to be able to continue making substantial contributions to conservation projects in the Park.

Reserves policy

Within the unrestricted funds is a designated amount of £25,000 set aside to cover potential urgent campaign expenses (in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without recourse to campaign funding and the delays which might result). In addition, the policy of the Trustees is to maintain other reserves at more than six months and less than twelve months of general expenditure, which corresponds to £26,000 for 2021.

Trustees' Report (continued)

This total reserve amount of £51,000 in the unrestricted fund leaves a fund balance of £75,131 at 31 December 2021 and the Trustees will ensure that funds continue to be deployed to conservation and other projects in the Park as soon as is practicable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Friends' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Friends will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Friends and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution of the Friends. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

The Independent Examiners, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Roger Hillyer

Chairman

17 February 2022

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members of the Friends of Richmond Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Friends of Richmond Park (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Richard Rhodes
Chartered Accountant
Feltons, Independent Examiners
1 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1PL

17 February 2022

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2021

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 £
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	2	30,034	-	30,034	27,661
Donations		4,226	238	4,464	52,739
Gift Aid	3	6,096	-	6,096	4,942
Interest		301	-	301	476
Sponsorship		5,000	-	5,000	4,560
Publications & VC Sales		2,572	10,043	12,615	7,353
Merchandise (Online)		2,620	8,915	11,535	17,628
Royal Oak campaign		-	-	-	5,310
Total incoming resources		50,849	19,196	70,045	120,669
Resources expended on charitable activities					
Newsletters		(7,275)	-	(7,275)	(6,184)
Governance		(2,266)	-	(2,266)	(2,165)
Beverley Brook volunteers		-	-	-	(73)
Light and Sound Surveys		(24,163)	-	(24,163)	
Adopt An Area		(1,417)	-	(1,417)	(1,524)
Walks & talks		(2,226)	-	(2,226)	(1,202)
Other volunteering		(598)	-	(598)	(694)
Website hosting and maintenance		(1,829)	-	(1,829)	(1,845)
Website development		(805)	-	(805)	(3,658)
Merchandise & publications		(3,246)	(9,084)	(12,330)	(11,679)
Tree planting & conservation		-	-	-	(656)
Grants		-	(42,895)	(42,895)	(34,400)
Total resources expended	5	(43,825)	(51,979)	(95,804)	(64,079)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		7,024	(32,783)	(25,759)	56,590
Total funds brought forward		119,107	75,176	194,283	137,693
Total funds carried forward		126,131	42,393	168,524	194,283

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2021 (continued)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		£	£
Fixed assets	6	7,500	7,500
Total fixed assets		<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Current Assets			
Stock	7	1,980	60
Debtors	8	5,000	4,500
Other prepayments	9	820	2,385
Cash at bank and in hand		153,224	179,838
Total current assets		<u>161,024</u>	<u>186,783</u>
Current liabilities	10	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>168,524</u>	<u>194,283</u>
Funds of the Charity	11		
		£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		119,107	45,287
Current year		7,024	73,819
Total Unrestricted funds		<u>126,131</u>	<u>119,107</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted general income fund		35,367	25,086
Restricted merchandise fund		5,817	5,986
Year of the Tree fund		1,209	37,721
Elm Walk appeal fund		-	6,383
Total Restricted funds		<u>42,393</u>	<u>75,176</u>
Total charity funds		<u>168,524</u>	<u>194,283</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17 February 2022 and were signed on their behalf by:



Dr Hugh Deighton
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

(* indicates a general note whose number is not included in the Financial Statements above)

1* General information and basis of preparation

The Friends of Richmond Park is a UK registered charity, number 1133201, and governed by its constitution dated 12 November 2009.

The address of the principal office of the charity is given on page 1 of this report.

The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees' Report above.

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)" - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Friends of Richmond Park 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 note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The Covid-19 outbreak has caused severe disruption to charities internationally. The trustees of the Friends of Richmond Park have analysed and will carry out continuing monitoring of the impact on the charity's financial position. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2 Incoming resources - subscriptions

Incoming resources from regular subscriptions are considered as gifts and therefore recognised on receipt.

3 Gift Aid

Tax credits receivable from Gift Aid donations are recognized in the same period as the gift to which the claim relates.

4* Donated services and volunteer help

The value of donated services and volunteer help is not included in the financial statements but is described in the Trustees' report.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided.

5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Conservation grants payable are recognized in the financial statements when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the disbursement of that grant which remain in the control of the charity. All grants payable in the year were for conservation purposes and awarded to the Royal Parks Limited.

No Trustee received any remuneration during the reporting period. The Trustees were able to recover reasonable expenses incurred by them wholly, necessarily and exclusively for the Friends: these included the purchase of equipment to support volunteering activities as well as stationery and software supplies for newsletters and membership activities. The total cost reimbursed to trustees in respect of such expenditure during the year amounted to £2,393 paid to six trustees (2020: £2,721 paid to six trustees). There were no related party transactions.

The independent examination was conducted on a pro-bono basis by Feltons and all other services were provided on a voluntary basis by Trustees and volunteers.

6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognized at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realized or unrealized, are combined and shown in the heading "Gains/(losses) on investments" in the Statement of financial activities, if applicable.

Fixed asset investments comprise the original artwork of the Royal Oak drawn by Mark Frith. The trustees reviewed the valuation of the artwork at the year end and believe that there has been no change in the fair value since it was acquired.

7 Valuation of stock

Publications, comprising books and prints for sale, are valued at the lower of the cost of production and net realizable value. The cost of publications sold is charged to the statement of financial activities, together with any royalties paid or payable on sales, for all copies sold or provided on a complimentary basis. The remaining DVDs, previously valued at £60, were written off as having no residual value.

300 copies of the small Royal Oak print by Mark Frith were bought during the year in the expectation that they would sell over several years. Unsold copies are included in the unsold stock amount.

The costs of leaflets and booklets for free distribution are expensed in full in the statement of financial activities as incurred.

8 Debtors

The only debtor is the repayment of tax due from HMRC in Gift Aid, which has been accrued.

9 Other prepayments

Other prepayments comprise the remaining stock of postage stamps purchased in advance of an increase in rates.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

10 Liabilities and Creditors

The charity's policy is to pay creditors in a timely fashion and there are no outstanding creditors or other liabilities for 2021.

11 The analysis of total funds as at 31 December 2021 is shown below:

	2021				2020
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Designated	Other			
	£	£	£	£	£
Total fixed assets	-	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Total current assets	25,000	93,631	42,393	161,024	186,783
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	25,000	101,131	42,393	168,524	194,283

Unrestricted funds are represented by general funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Friends. These arise from the net surplus generated on ordinary activities during a financial year.

Within unrestricted funds, there is a designated balance of £25,000 set aside for immediate access to provide funding for any campaign in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without recourse to campaign funding.

The restricted funds represent amounts received, granted, donated or bequeathed to the Friends for specific purposes, primarily for conservation projects.

The restricted general income fund (previously called the restricted income fund) represents specific small or general donations and other income received in respect of, or to be applied to, conservation projects.

The restricted merchandise fund represents the net surplus realized by the Friends on the sales to the Visitor Centre and other third parties of the range of merchandise specially designed, or produced, for the Friends. This excludes the Year of the Tree fund which will be concluded in 2022.

The movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2021 are shown below.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general income fund	25,086	10,281	-	-	35,367
Restricted merchandise fund	5,986	8,915	(9,084)	-	5,817
Year of the Tree fund	37,721	-	(36,512)	-	1,209
Elm Walk appeal fund	6,383	-	(6,383)	-	-
Total Funds	75,176	19,196	(51,979)	-	42,393

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The comparable movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2020 are shown below.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income fund	20,526	4,560	-	-	25,086
Restricted merchandise fund	5,444	1,137	(595)	-	5,986
Year of the Tree fund	30,053	11,729	(4,061)	-	37,721
Elm Walk appeal fund	36,383	-	(30,000)	-	6,383
Total Funds	92,406	17,426	(34,656)	-	75,176

12* Financial instruments

Except for fixed asset investments, the Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

End of Notes to the Financial Statements.

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1133201

Accounts



The Friends of Richmond Park

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the objects and activities of the Friends and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the objects and activities they have set.

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Richmond Park is an unincorporated association which is governed under a Constitution dated 12 November 2009 which sets out its objects and powers and under Rules made by the Trustees on 13 May 2010 pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Friends' constitution.

The trustees are elected in a general meeting of the charity. The Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. New Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the membership, principally those who are engaged in volunteer activities. As part of their induction they receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules, the latest annual report and financial statements, the Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and all other relevant management papers. Trustee meetings are held every two months.

Reference and administrative details

The charity is registered and known as The Friends of Richmond Park (Registration number: 1133201). The principal and registered address of the Friends is 21 Ormonde Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7BE.

The Trustees, all of whom served throughout the year except as noted, are set out below:

Janet Bostock

Nick Coleman

Ron Crompton – Chairman

Dr Hugh Deighton – Honorary Treasurer (appointed 23 January 2020)

Teresa Grafton

Richard Gray

PJ Greeves

Roger Hillyer – Honorary Secretary (appointed 14 May 2020)

Chris Mason

David McLaughlin - Honorary Treasurer (resigned 23 January 2020)

Richard Polson – Honorary Secretary (resigned 14 May 2020)

Dr Vivienne Press

Steve Sandham

The trustees' management of the Friends continued through lockdown using Zoom for their regular meetings. The Friends AGM was held online.

We are grateful for the significant contribution of David McLaughlin as Treasurer and Richard Polson as Honorary Secretary over several years.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Patrons

Dame Jacqueline Wilson stepped down as a Patron of the Friends after almost 10 years. We have greatly benefited from her work. We are pleased that Sir David Attenborough and Baroness Susan Kramer continue as patrons and that Clare Balding became a patron in December.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Friends in summary are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and physical environment of the Park and its peace and natural beauty for the benefit of the public and future generations; and
- advance the education of the public in relation to the Park's status as a National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

To achieve these objectives, the Friends' volunteers undertake practical conservation work and litter-picking, monitor events in the Park, staff the Visitor Centre, organise public walks and courses, and run an education programme for young families.

The Friends also funds conservation projects, campaigns on issues affecting the Park, and communicates with the public and its members through a website, a Facebook page, a newsletter three times a year and a monthly e-bulletin. The Friends is run on a voluntary basis and has no paid members of staff.

Achievements and performance

COVID-19, lockdown and Richmond Park

The year was dominated by COVID-19 and lockdown which had implications for Richmond Park and for the Friends of Richmond Park.

The Royal Parks closed Richmond Park to cars on 21 March and subsequently to all cyclists (except under-12s). The roads in the Park were occupied by people strolling and children riding their bikes and the Park became a quieter and more family friendly place. It led the Friends and many others to ask whether some features of the quieter lockdown park could be retained.

Cyclists were permitted to return in June and cars returned in August, but that was quickly replaced by a 6-month trial of through traffic restrictions. With other activities curtailed by lockdown and Tier restrictions, many more visitors came to the Park and it was at times overwhelmed. Litter, deer harassment, destruction of wildlife habitats and erosion of the landscape increased enormously. The increase in cyclists also caused problems for pedestrians in crossing the roads and walking safely on shared use paths. The problems remain in 2021 as COVID restrictions continue.

COVID and the Friends

COVID severely affected our volunteer activities. In March all activities were suspended, to be fully or partially re-started in summer, then suspended again, then re-started and then largely suspended again by the end of the year. It is a tribute to our team leaders that we were able to continue activities at all in such trying circumstances. Some volunteers, especially the litter-pickers, continued to work in a personal capacity when the formal picking was suspended; without them the situation in the Park would have been much worse.

Trustees' Report (continued)

COVID also affected our public education work, stopping all public walks and talks from March onward and restricting the opening of the Visitor Centre for much of the year. To replace them we made available online eight quizzes about the Park, a series of short walks tailored to the permitted one hour of exercise during the first lockdown, a set of 'Tree of the Month' with the best locations in the Park to see it, and seasonal photography competitions.

Through traffic and car parking charges

In August The Royal Parks began a six-month trial of restrictions on through traffic, closing the road on the east side of the Park and the Sheen Gate link at all times and the road on the north side at weekends. We welcomed the trial. It meets our charitable objective to protect the peace of the Park and our monitoring suggested big benefits in that regard; also, many visitors like it. We hope The Royal Parks make it permanent.

The Royal Parks also consulted on car parking charges in the Park. We supported them as a reasonable way to tackle car parking congestion at weekends, reduce weekday commuter parking in Kingston Gate and Pembroke Lodge car parks and fund traffic-related Park infrastructure. It also gives The Royal Parks income when their finances are under great strain and encourages more non-car travel to the Park. However, we considered that there needs to be some mechanism for reducing the costs for frequent visitors.

Heathrow

In our response of September 2019 to the Heathrow expansion we said that its assessment of the environmental impact on Richmond Park was completely inadequate. We met with Heathrow and its consultants four times between then and February 2020 and were due to meet a fifth time when the national lockdown was imposed in March. Since then, COVID and its impact on the aviation industry has meant the Heathrow expansion has been delayed and the planning process for a third runway stopped. However, we still face the prospect of re-configured flight paths in the south-east of England with flights directly over Richmond Park. Our campaign against them continues.

Year of the Tree

We launched our 2020 Year of the Tree initiative in late 2019 and intended it to be the centrepiece of our 2020 activities. In spite of COVID restrictions, we organised the range of online activities mentioned above - a Tree of the Month, short nature walks from Park gates and a seasonal Tree photography competition - launched a second set of printed Walks with Remarkable Trees, sold over 100 small prints of the Mark Frith Royal Oak drawing and funded a range of tree conservation projects. With some activities curtailed because of lockdown, we are extending our Year of the Tree to 2021.

Conservation Projects

As part of Year of the Tree, the Friends funded three major conservation projects in the Park during the year:

- £20,000 for veteran tree protection, primarily fencing to stop compaction and damage due to visitors climbing and having barbecues in the trees.
- £6,000 for the planting of fruit trees at various locations, to get a greater variety of species (and food for the deer).
- £4,000 for willow/goat willow at suitable locations to further the conservation of butterfly species; the funds were kindly donated by a local family charity.

We also provided a further £4,000 funding for other conservation projects in the Park.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Litter and Adopt-an-Area scheme

The substantial increase in visitors led to a significant increase in litter. In June 2020 42 tonnes of litter were collected from the Park, (seven times the June 2019 figure of 5.6 tonnes), a figure which generated much media attention. We now have about 120 litter picking volunteers whose work supplementing the Royal Parks contractors was critical in dealing with such a high volume of litter. We are particularly pleased to be able to offer such volunteer work to 15-20 Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme young people, who collect with a parent.

The Visitor Centre, online sales and Friends calendar and Christmas cards

The Visitor Centre had a difficult year, closing in March because of the lockdown and opening again in August with reduced hours and with COVID-19 procedures that meant a table was placed at the door allowing counter service only. Sales moved to card only.

To compensate, we launched an online shop in September, hosted on our website and initially selling the Friends 2021 Calendar and 6 types of Christmas cards, with our print supplier fulfilling the orders. In November we extended this to a 'click and collect' from the Visitor Centre with a wider range of goods available, including tree walks, Royal Oak prints, jars of honey, tea towels and beanie hats.

The online shop was much more popular than we anticipated, with over 600 orders. In total, including sales via the Visitor Centre, local bookshops and our sponsors, we sold 1,600 calendars and 2,300 packs of Christmas cards (8 to a pack) and were sold out of both a week before Christmas.

Members and volunteers

Membership increased by 13% during the year and we now have over 3,200 members. We think the increase is partly a continuation of a trend over the last few years as we have become better known and partly from the large number of new visitors during COVID.

We now have 265 volunteers, an increase of 5% on 2019, largely due to more Adopt-an-Area litter pickers. In a normal, non-COVID year our volunteers work a total of 15,000 hours and contribute over £160,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage). We thank all our volunteers for their hard work and flexibility during a very difficult year.

For more detailed information on these topics, please see individual articles in the 2020 newsletters, all of which are available from the FRP website: www.frp.org.uk.

Plans for the future

The Friends plans to maintain its activities broadly along the present lines. A major priority will be the resumption of activities as legal restrictions and government guidelines allow.

Our Year of the Tree initiative has been extended to 2021 and will include funding further conservation projects related to tree protection.

The Friends will continue to campaign strongly to protect Richmond Park against threats to its peace, natural beauty and wildlife, in particular from planned developments at Heathrow and new flight paths, and developments on the periphery of the Park that could have an adverse impact on the Park. We will also monitor developments in the through traffic restrictions and car parking charges.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

The financial position of the Friends continues to be healthy and current balances stand at £194,000, with £75,000 in the restricted fund, which has to be used for specific purposes nominated by donors, and £119,000 in the unrestricted fund.

Membership income continues to be good, with increasing membership numbers and we have received several large donations totalling £52,000, including a generous legacy.

Our publications and merchandise sales through the Visitor Centre were curtailed because of its temporary closure but our online sales were much higher than last year through an increased range of products on offer through our online shop.

We made further grants to The Royal Parks of £34,000 for veteran tree protection and for the planting of fruit trees and Sallow/Goat Willow. The last of these was funded by a generous donation from a local trust.

Our financial position therefore remains strong and growing and we are able to continue making substantial contributions to the Park's conservation activities. We are currently discussing further grants to The Royal Parks for additional veteran tree protection and other vital conservation work in Richmond Park during 2021.

Reserves policy

Within the unrestricted funds is a designated amount of £25,000 set aside to cover potential urgent campaign expenses (in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without the need to recourse to campaign funding and the delays which might result), which leaves a balance of £86,607 in the unrestricted fund: this represents about 30 months (2019: 12 months) of general expenditure. The policy of the Trustees is to maintain reserves at more than six months and less than twelve months of general expenditure, and the Trustees will ensure that funds are deployed to conservation and other projects as soon as is practicable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Friends' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Friends will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Friends and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution of the Friends. They are also responsible for safeguarding the

Trustees' Report (continued)

assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

The Independent Examiners, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Crompton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Ron Crompton
Chairman

1 April 2021

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members of the Friends of Richmond Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Friends of Richmond Park (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Richard Rhodes
Chartered Accountant
Feltons, Independent Examiners
1 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1PL

6 April 2021

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2020

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 as re-stated £
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	2	27,661		27,661	23,496
General donations		46,319	6,420	52,739	3,126
Gift Aid	3	4,942		4,942	5,262
Interest		476		476	520
Sponsorship & recoveries			4,560	4,560	7,591
Publications & VC Sales		7,353		7,353	12,092
Merchandise (Online)		16,491	1,137	17,628	234
Royal Oak campaign			5,310	5,310	36,175
Total incoming resources		103,242	17,427	120,669	88,497
Resources Expended					
Newsletters		(6,184)		(6,184)	(5,334)
Admin/governance		(2,165)		(2,165)	(2,570)
Beverley Brook volunteers		(73)		(73)	(171)
Discoverers		-		-	(382)
Adopt An Area		(1,524)		(1,524)	(828)
Walks & talks		(1,202)		(1,202)	(279)
Other volunteering		(694)		(694)	(713)
Website hosting and maintenance		(1,845)		(1,845)	(3,090)
Website development		(3,658)		(3,658)	
Heathrow campaign					(8,138)
Merchandise & publications		(11,679)		(11,679)	(5,157)
Tree planting & conservation			(656)	(656)	(14,122)
Grants		(400)	(34,000)	(34,400)	(48,175)
Total resources expended	5	(29,422)	(34,656)	(64,079)	(88,961)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		73,819	(17,229)	56,590	(464)
Total funds brought forward		45,287	92,406	137,693	138,157
Total funds carried forward		119,107	75,176	194,283	137,693

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2020 (continued)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 as re- stated £
Fixed assets	6	7,500	7,500
Total fixed assets		7,500	7,500
Current Assets			
Stock	7	60	400
Debtors	8	4,500	5,452
Other prepayments	9	2,385	3,852
Cash at bank and in hand		179,838	128,020
Total current assets		186,783	137,724
Current liabilities			
Deferred income	10	-	(1,000)
Deferred sponsorship		-	(4,560)
Accruals		-	(1,971)
Total Current Liabilities		-	(7,531)
Net assets/(liabilities)		194,283	137,693
Funds of the Charity	11		
		£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		45,287	50,640
Transfers		-	(8,000)
Current year		73,819	2,647
Total Unrestricted funds		119,107	45,287
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund		25,086	20,526
Restricted merchandise fund		5,986	5,444
Year of the Tree fund		37,721	30,053
Elm Walk appeal fund		6,383	36,383
Total Restricted funds		75,176	92,406
Total charity funds		194,283	137,693

Financial Statements for the calendar year 2020 (continued)

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 January 2021 and were signed on their behalf by:



Dr Hugh Deighton
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

(* indicates a general note whose number is not included in the Financial Statements above)

1* Basis of accounting

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)" - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Friends of Richmond Park 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 note(s).

The Covid-19 outbreak has caused severe disruption to charities internationally. The trustees of the Friends of Richmond Park have analysed and will carry out ongoing monitoring of the impact on the charity's financial position. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2 Incoming resources - subscriptions

Incoming resources from regular subscriptions were previously recognised in the period to which they were considered to relate (the membership year), with amounts received in advance recorded as deferred income. The trustees have reviewed this policy and consider that these items should be regarded as gifts and therefore recognised on receipt.

To ensure comparability, the comparative figures for 2019 have been restated.

Subscription income	£
Subscription income for 2019 as previously stated	23,396
Adjustments to move to cash basis accounting for subscription income	<u>100</u>
Subscription income for 2019 restated	<u>23,496</u>
 Current liabilities	 £
Current liabilities as at 31 December 2019 as previously stated	12,731
Adjustments to move to cash basis accounting for subscription income	<u>(5,200)</u>
Current liabilities as at 31 December 2019 restated	<u>7,531</u>

See Note 11 for the effect on the funds.

3 Gift Aid

Tax credits receivable from Gift Aid donations are recognized in the same period as the gift to which the claim relates.

4* Donated services and volunteer help

The value of donated services and volunteer help is not included in the financial statements but is described in the Trustees' report.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Conservation grants payable are recognized in the financial statements when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the disbursement of that grant which remain in the control of the charity.

No Trustee received any remuneration during the reporting period. The Trustees were able to recover reasonable expenses incurred by them wholly, necessarily and exclusively for the Friends: these included the purchase of equipment to support volunteering activities as well as stationery and software supplies for newsletters and membership activities. The total cost reimbursed to trustees in respect of such expenditure during the year amounted to £2,721 paid to six trustees (2019: £2,811 paid to six trustees). There were no related party transactions.

The independent examination was conducted on a pro-bono basis by Feltons and all other services were provided on a voluntary basis by Trustees and volunteers.

6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognized at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realized or unrealized, are combined and shown in the heading "Gains/(losses) on investments" in the Statement of financial activities if applicable.

Fixed asset investments comprise the original artwork of the Royal Oak drawn by Mark Frith. The trustees reviewed the valuation of the artwork at the year end and believe that there has been no change in the fair value since it was acquired.

7 Valuation of stock

Publications, comprising books and DVDs for sale, are valued at the lower of the cost of production and net realizable value. The cost of publications (including DVDs) sold is charged to the statement of financial activities, together with any royalties paid or payable on sales, for all copies sold or provided on a complimentary basis.

The costs of leaflets and booklets for free distribution are expensed in full in the statement of financial activities as incurred.

8 Debtors

The only debtor is the repayment of tax due from HMRC in Gift Aid, which has been accrued.

9 Other prepayments

Other prepayments comprise the remaining stock of postage stamps purchased in advance of an increase in rates.

10 Deferred Income

In view of the substantial increase in membership throughout 2020 there is now a more-or-less even distribution of membership income throughout the year and in future the income will be recognized at the time it is received.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Sponsorships by the three current sponsors (Thames Water, Russell-Cooke and The Property Partnership) have previously renewed at various different times during the year. All sponsorship arrangements now expire annually at 31 December. Sponsorship income continues to be accounted on an accruals basis but the revised renewal date means that no accrual is necessary as at 31 December 2020

11 The analysis of total funds as at 31 December 2020 is shown below:

	2020				2019 Total Funds £
	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Unrestricted Funds Other £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	
Total fixed assets	-	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Total current assets	25,000	86,607	75,176	186,783	137,724
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	(7,531)
Total Funds	25,000	94,107	75,176	194,283	137,693

Unrestricted funds are represented by general funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Friends. These arise from the net surplus generated on ordinary activities during a financial year. Within unrestricted funds, there is a designated balance of £25,000 set aside for immediate access to provide funding for any campaign in respect of which the Charity could be required to provide support, without the need to recourse to campaign funding (such as was the case in 2019 with the Heathrow campaign actions).

The restricted funds represent amounts received, granted, donated or bequeathed to the Friends for specific purposes, primarily for conservation projects.

The income fund represents specific small or general donations and sponsorship funding received in respect of, or to be applied to, conservation projects.

The merchandise fund represents the net surplus realized by the Friends on the sales to the Visitor Centre and other third parties of the range of merchandise specially designed, or produced, for the Friends, but excluding Year of the Tree merchandise which has its own separate fund.

The appeal fund created for further conservation and enhancement work in respect of ponds and streams has been fully applied with the second stage of works at Beverley Brook.

The movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2020 are shown below.

	Opening Balance £	Additions £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Restricted income fund	20,526	4,560	-	-	25,086
Restricted merchandise fund	5,444	1,137	(595)	-	5,986
Year of the Tree fund	30,053	11,729	(4,061)	-	37,721
Elm Walk appeal fund	36,383	-	(30,000)	-	6,383
Total Funds	92,406	17,426	(34,656)	-	75,176

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The comparable movements in the restricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2019 are shown below.

	Opening Balance	Additions	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income fund	19,113	7,540	(6,127)	-	20,526
Restricted merchandise fund	16,718	12,326	(23,600)	-	5,444
Ponds & Streams fund	15,303	570	(15,873)	-	-
Year of the Tree fund	-	36,175	(14,122)	8,000	30,053
Elm Walk appeal fund	36,383	-	-	-	36,383
Total Funds	87,517	56,611	(59,722)	8,000	92,406

A summary of total funds is provided below to allow comparison of the original and re-stated 2019 positions with totals for 2020.

Year ended 31 December 2019 - as re-stated

	2019 Original opening balance 1 Jan 2019	Prior period adjustment	Re-stated opening balance 1 Jan 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	45,540	5,100	50,640	31,886	(29,239)	(8,000)	45,287
Restricted funds	87,517	-	87,517	56,611	(59,722)	8,000	92,406
Total funds	133,057	5,100	138,157	88,497	(88,961)	0	137,693

See note 2 for details of the prior year adjustment above of £5,100 at 1-1-19 and the increase of £100 to the income of 2019 bringing the total prior year adjustment to £5,200.

Year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 Original opening balance 1 Jan 20	Prior period adjustment	Re- stated opening balance 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	40,087	5,200	45,287	103,243	(29,423)	-	119,107
Restricted funds	92,406	-	92,406	17,426	(34,656)	-	75,176
Total funds	132,493	5,200	137,693	120,669	(64,079)	0	194,283