

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales · Charity number 1137203

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-07-30

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

Contact

Address White Lodge
Hampton Court Road
Hampton
TW12 2EJ

Phone 020 8979 1586

Email secretary@fbhp.org.uk

Website www.fbhp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECTS OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE PUBLIC IN PARTICULAR BY THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION, SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF BUSHY PARK AND HOME PARK

Activities: To promote public enjoyment and understanding of the Parks the Friends organise lectures and walks and man an information point in Bushy Park. We produce a Newsletter and other relevant publications. We raise funds for practical improvement projects in the Parks and work to protect and conserve the Parks' environment.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BUSHY PARK AND HOME PARK
- Kingston Upon Thames
- Richmond Upon Thames

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£40,071	£48,243	-	-
2023-12-31	£35,668	£30,733	-	-
2022-12-31	£36,466	£30,046	-	-
2021-12-31	£26,997	£20,802	-	-
2020-12-31	£32,183	£11,597	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
COLIN MUID	Chair	2015-03-06
Adrian Heywood		2019-06-26
CLAIRE IVISON		2015-03-06
DAVID IVISON		2015-03-06
Elizabeth Malone		2024-03-15
Fred Squire		2020-03-09
IRIS HAWKES		2015-03-07
Jeannie Edwards		2021-05-28
PIETER ANTHONY BRIDGE MORPURGO		
Rebecca Harvey		2023-03-24
Sue Robertson		2019-03-01
Susan Hugill		2021-05-28

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1137203

Accounts

Friends of Bushy and Home Park

Annual Report for 2024

This is my ninth annual report to Members. As I said last year, it is a privilege to represent you, the members, in our dealings with The Royal Parks (TRP) and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), and with others who manage and enjoy these two semi-wild natural spaces. You, the members, are hugely appreciative of what the parks provide; be that the natural landscape, wildlife, history, somewhere to exercise, somewhere to observe nature, somewhere to restore our well-being.

That well-being and exercise opportunity which the parks provide is exemplified by **parkrun**. The global phenomenon which began in Bushy Park as the very first venue on 2 October 2004 and which celebrated 20 years with thousands of runners turning up in October 2024. Yet another part of history associated with Bushy Park.

The Friends role is to promote respectful use of the parks by visitors and to support the parks for future generations to enjoy. Faced with the impacts of climate change and of increasing human demand to use the space, it can be an uphill climb. Possibly the only type of hill in either park!

We began our life as the Friends as a campaigning group in 1990, objecting to threatened removal of Chestnut Trees. We found ourselves once again involved in a campaign, this time about policing in the Royal Parks. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has indicated that the Royal Parks' police unit is to be cut, with policing of the parks handed to local neighbourhood commands. A shortfall in funding for the Met is the reason. Despite considerable opposition from local councillors, MPs, the Friends' groups for each of the Royal Parks, and The Royal Parks charity, it appears the cuts are going ahead. The risks are that neighbourhood police will not deliver the same capability as the dedicated unit and that consequently the parks may become susceptible to greater public misbehaviour and feel less safe.

I turn now to a more positive story. The work you will have seen in Bushy Park has again been extensive and important. Bracken, which is invasive and cannot be left unchecked, has been cleared in several areas, while taking care to preserve areas for deer birthing and bird nesting. Scrubland and soil are being improved, with concern to ensure the SSSI status is maintained. The Woodland Gardens have been defined a little more with maturing shrubs and more mature trees, which are able to cope with climate issues, installed to succeed those which have died; and over forty thousand bulbs have been planted. The tree canopy has reached a point where much of the canopy has grown to the same height, so it is now being layered to encourage younger growth and more natural difference in heights. Grass cutting is now done in strips with areas of long grass left to grow seed, which improves habitat for invertebrates and costs less to maintain. Leaf clearing is now being done differently, mulching leaves and leaving it on the ground to encourage worm and invertebrate action which is good for the soil. Broom Clumps, the area alongside the roadway to the Pheasantry car park, has been cleared of undergrowth allowing new planting and more deadwood habitat for those species which rely on it. The Brewhouse area and the Water Gardens and Longford cascade bridge are being refurbished. You should have spotted the green roofs on the litter bins in the Woodland Gardens, and the area newly landscaped next to Crocodile gate, projects proposed and implemented by TRP's Apprentices working in the park.

Some of Bushy Park's infrastructure is being given attention. The roof surrounding the Pheasantry café is to be repaired as it leaks, and the toilets by the Playground are also to be substantially restored to modern capabilities - the pipework is very old cast iron and often has blockages. The

wooden planters on Chestnut Avenue, which were temporarily installed when it was designated a No Through Road, are to be replaced by carriageway half-gates, to improve sightline safety.

Home Park has been subject to less obvious works, although behind the scenes much planning is being done, including finding ways to improve wildlife habitats, and to ensure sufficient people resources by recruiting more volunteers to work in the park. It is encouraging that HRP continues to recover from the income losses which it suffered during Covid, which means the park and gardens will benefit alongside the rest of that charity's estate.

I should record here our deep sorrow at the untimely death in early January 2025 of Dr Terry Gough MVO, the recently retired Head of Gardens and Estates at Historic Royal Palaces. Terry was a strong supporter of the Friends and appreciated our role as a stakeholder in Home Park and the gardens at Hampton Court Palace. The restorations at Hampton Court of the Privy Garden, the kitchen garden, Queen Mary's Exotics Garden, and two of the Lime tree avenues are all his legacy. It was our great privilege to have known him.

For the Friends, 2024 has been a year of several successes. We succeeded in organising several significant events. These included a revived, albeit small-scale, Chestnut Sunday; a photographic exhibition of members' amazing pictures of wildlife in the parks; a weekend commemorative exhibition of Camp Griffiss for the 80th anniversary of D-Day; and an art competition held in partnership with the Landmark Centre, which attracted over 100 entrants of all ages, who produced exceptional works in celebration of the two parks. Many members and other visitors congratulated the Friends on these events, and we have been asked to repeat them. They are very time and energy consuming to organise, so we are drawing breath before making firm commitments. In addition to those one-off events our programme of walks and talks has also proved very successful and been strongly attended. We are massively grateful for the volunteer walk leaders, the expert speakers, the volunteers who support the talks with technical expertise and handle logistics and catering, and Rebecca Harvey our trustee who manages the programme.

Alongside the above activities, whose substantial costs were covered under the Friends' educational budget, during the past year the Friends also funded (a) five new pergola shelters outside the Pheasantry café kiosk, (b) an improved pedestrian/mobility access gate at Home Park's Kingston Gate, (c) DNA research into Black Poplar trees in Home Park, and (d) four new lockable information notice boards in Bushy Park.

Somewhat frustrating this year for the Friends has been the wait for an electric buggy which is to carry visitors between the Diana car park and the Pheasantry car park. This will mitigate difficulties faced by people with limited personal mobility who cannot now be driven by car along the no-through-road of Chestnut Avenue. Our trial use of a buggy in 2023 proved the need and we have persuaded TRP to supply a new one which we will operate with volunteer drivers. However, changes in personnel at TRP headquarters have contributed delays and despite our requests for action, the year has passed by without a delivery. We remain on the case and hope the coming year will see a successful outcome.

Also frustrating for us were demands from the park manager at short notice regarding Chestnut Sunday arrangements which consequently reduced the scope of the event we had planned. Further frustration has been caused by the length of time taken to deal with the refurbishment of the toilets at the Playground, although that is a frustration about TRP's works priorities borne equally by the park manager and the Friends. We haven't managed to achieve all of our aspirations in the plan for 2024, but what was achieved took enormous amounts of energy and attention to detail.

Looking ahead with optimism, we have been encouraged by TRP's Chief Executive's enthusiastic agreement to find ways in which the Brewhouse might be brought into occasional use. We proposed it as a site for "pop-up" exhibitions at intervals, which FBHP would organise in partnership with TRP, with our volunteers as stewards. The building appears to have a population of bats which means how it is used may be constrained. Nevertheless, we continue to plan for ways in which this important, historic, listed building can serve a greater purpose than simply being a deteriorating asset.

The Visitor Centre has continued to be a source of information, education and advice to visitors in Bushy Park and for potential visitors to Home Park. Our exceptional volunteers have delivered almost 1600 hours duty at the venue. Meanwhile the volunteer walk leaders have led visitors in both Bushy and Home Parks with almost 137 hours of their time. Our volunteers are not a "free resource", they are priceless!

Our membership stands currently around the 1560 mark. I must once again thank members for your generous donations to the Friends, which we use to fund projects that the two parks might not otherwise afford or be able to prioritise. Our website, Facebook page and Newsletter all reach their audiences effectively and ensure we keep everyone in touch with what the parks' teams are doing and what we are doing with them.

The Trustees and other officers of FBHP have worked hard during the past year on behalf of the membership and in support of both parks. Barry Purdon, who has been our Vice Chair for the past 8 years is standing down. He has also been our Appeals coordinator, our Safeguarding officer and our representative on the Safer Parks policing panel, and a frequent volunteer at the Visitor Centre. I have been grateful for his wise counsel and advice to me over the years.

In conclusion, we continue to enjoy these two parks as they face climate change and increased numbers of visitors. We work alongside the volunteer Rangers, and with the management teams in both parks. We are grateful for all their hard work. I engage closely with Phil Edwards the Bushy Park manager and with Nicholas Garbutt from Historic Royal Palaces and to me, their stewardship of these wonderful spaces is abundantly apparent.

I want to record my thanks to my fellow trustees, officers of the committee, volunteers, other helpers, and especially you the members for your continuing interest and support. We must continue to ensure the protection and conservation of these parks for generations to enjoy.

Colin Muid Chair, The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks.

February 2025.

The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)
Income & expenditure year ending 31 December 2024

	31 December 2024		31 December 2023	
	£	£	£	£
General Fund Receipts				
General Subscriptions	8,827.00		6,909.00	
Gift Aid received on prior year	1,337.24		2,345.86	
Bank Interest	643.59		525.38	
		10,807.83		9,780.24
Payments from General Fund				
Printing and Publicity	(1,400.00)		(958.00)	
Stationery, Stamps and Postage	(522.45)		(877.91)	
Insurance	(696.46)		(651.28)	
IT (hardware, software, licences)	(679.35)		(1,243.85)	
Membermojo	(300.00)		(250.00)	
Miscellaneous Items	(933.02)		(2,266.47)	
		(4,531.28)		(6,247.51)
Surplus of receipts over expenditure		6,276.55		3,532.73
Education				
Donations received	100.00		60.00	
Income from sale of refreshments at talks	407.50			
Events, AGM and Walks and Talks	(1,712.71)		(2,348.21)	
Art Competition (net cost)	(97.77)			
Leaflets	(246.05)		(441.00)	
Sundry	(87.07)		(738.86)	
Deficit of Education expenditure over receipts		(1,636.10)		(3,468.07)
Surplus of General Fund (incl Education) in year		4,640.45		64.66
Donations				
Member Donations	2,715.59		3,576.45	
Other donations (incl buckets)	4,326.17		2,710.38	
Gift Aid (50%) received on prior year	1,337.24		345.86	
		8,379.00		6,632.69
Merchandise				
Merchandise sales	19,119.66		19,194.83	
Merchandise purchases	(9,587.44)		(10,216.65)	
VC expenses	0.00		(228.96)	
Postage	0.00		(46.49)	
Stripe commission	(563.68)		(465.62)	
		8,968.54		8,237.11
Chestnut Sunday		(7,548.82)		
WW2 Event		(849.03)		
Projects				
Project payments: Kingston Gate (HRP)	(10,000.00)		0.00	
Pergola shelters at the Pheasantry kiosk	(9,650.00)		0.00	
Black Poplars	(2,000.00)			
		(21,650.00)		0.00
Ann Sayer Legacy		(112.36)		(10,000.00)
Total excess of income over (expenditure) for year		(8,172.22)		4,934.46
Opening funds		61,095.85		49,741.34
Funds at 31 December 2024		52,923.63		54,675.80
Balances		£		£
Current		7,433.37		14,724.49
Business 1		0.00		0.00
Business 2		43,776.94		45,133.35
Total cash in hand		51,210.31		59,857.84
iZettle receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2024		964.06		303.92
Stripe receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2024		607.61		610.07
Cheques not credited to bank at 31 December 2024				104.00
Cash taken in 2024 but not banked until 2025		141.65		220.02
		52,923.63		61,095.85
Gross income		40,070.99		35,667.76
Gross expenditure		(48,243.21)		(30,733.30)
(Deficit)/surplus		(8,172.22)		4,934.46

The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund 1 January 2024 b/fwd		15,078.29			15,013.63	
Net (deficit)/surplus		(3,757.40)			64.66	
		<hr/>			<hr/>	
General fund c/fwd 31 December 2024			11,320.89			15,078.29
Projects fund b/fwd		44,012.85			29,143.05	
Income from general donations	8,379.00			6,632.69		
Net income from merchandise trading	<u>8,968.54</u>			<u>8,237.11</u>		
		17,347.54			14,869.80	
<u>Expenditure in 2024</u>						
Kingston Gate	(10,000.00)			0.00		
Pergola shelters at the Pheasantry kiosk	(9,650.00)			<u>0.00</u>		
Black Poplars	<u>(2,000.00)</u>					
		<u>(21,650.00)</u>			<u>0.00</u>	
Projects fund c/fwd at 31 December 2024			39,710.39			44,012.85
Ann Sayer legacy			1,892.35			2,004.71
Cash in hand at 31 December 2024			<u>52,923.63</u>			<u>61,095.85</u>

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. 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 examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

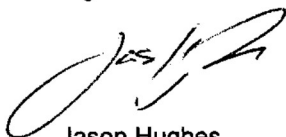
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 21 February 2025

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

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Basis of independent examiner's report

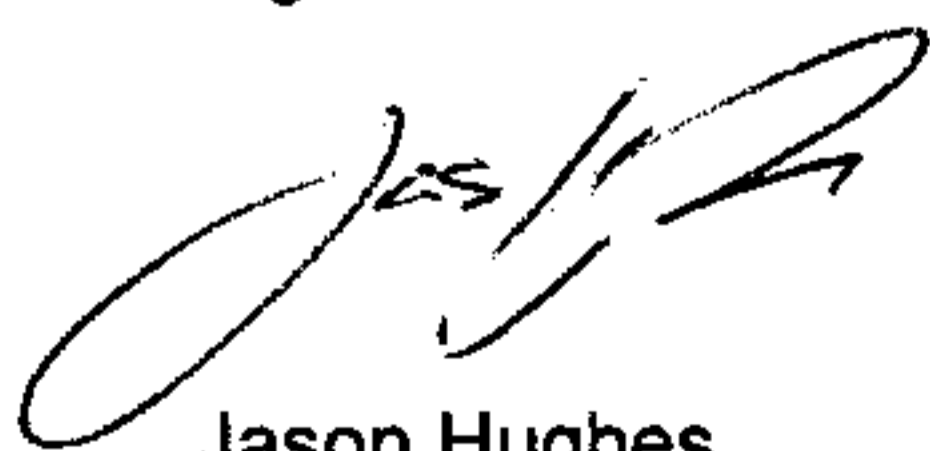
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Independent examiner's statement

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- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 21 February 2025

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1137203

Accounts

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

Income and Expenditure Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Cash in Hand

Cash in hand on 31 December 2023 was £61,095.85, compared with £56,161.39 on 31 December 2022, an increase of £4,934.46. Stock of merchandise available for sale, held on 31 December 2023, amounted to £4,618.37 (2022: £4,387.83).

Income and Expenditure

The surplus of General Fund receipts over expenditure in 2023 was £3,532.73, £2,780.28 higher than the previous year. General Subscription receipts in the year of £6,909.00 were £1,241.00 above the previous year. Gift aid receipts allocated to the General Fund was £1,455.44 up on the previous year and interest received on bank deposits was £486.23 higher than in 2022.

Payments from the General Fund were £(402.39), or 6.9% higher than the previous year.

Expenditure on Education was £2,990.60 above last year as Rebecca expanded her excellent programme of Walks and Talks.

General donations plus gift aid, at £6,632.69, was £(306.92) lower than in 2022. This is mostly explained by a greater allocation of gift aid receipts in 2023 to the General Fund compared with 2022.


Net income of £8,237.11 from sales of merchandise at the Visitor Centre was in line with 2022.

£10,000 was paid from Anne Sayer's Legacy to fund the purchase, installation and 10 year's maintenance of a commemorative bench.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet at 31 December 2023 shows the allocation of cash in hand of £61,095.85: £15,078.29 held in respect of the General Fund, in line with the Charity stated Reserves policy. £44,012.85 is held as a Projects Fund and £2,004.71 is held in respect of Ann Sayer's Legacy to fund the printing of walking guides.

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by:



Adrian Heywood (FCCA)

Hon. Treasurer

FBHP

27 February 2024

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)
Income & expenditure year ending 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023		31 December 2022		Variance
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund Receipts					
General Subscriptions	6,909.00		5,668.00		1,241.00
Gift Aid received on prior year	2,345.86		890.42		1,455.44
Bank Interest	525.38		39.15		486.23
		9,780.24		6,597.57	3,182.67
Payments from General Fund					
Summer Party					
Printing and Publicity	(958.00)		(1,160.02)		202.02
Stationery, Stamps and Postage	(877.91)		(859.51)		(18.40)
Insurance	(651.28)		(647.25)		(4.03)
IT (hardware, software, licences)	(1,243.85)		(1,263.03)		19.18
Membermojo	(250.00)		(250.00)		0.00
Miscellaneous Items	(2,266.47)		(1,665.31)		(601.16)
		(6,247.51)		(5,845.12)	(402.39)
Surplus of receipts over expenditure		3,532.73		752.45	2,780.28
Education					
Donations received	60.00		1,629.50		(1,569.50)
Events, AGM and Walks and Talks	(2,348.21)		(1,625.05)		(723.16)
Leaflets	(441.00)		(398.35)		(42.65)
Sundry	(738.86)		(83.57)		(655.29)
Deficit of Education expenditure over receipts		(3,468.07)		(477.47)	(2,990.60)
Surplus of General Fund (incl Education) in year		64.66		274.98	(210.32)
Donations					
Member Donations	3,576.45		3,557.50		18.95
Other donations (incl buckets)	2,710.38		2,491.70		218.68
Gift Aid received on prior year	345.86		890.41		(544.55)
		6,632.69		6,939.61	(306.92)
Merchandise					
Merchandise sales	19,194.83		20,294.33		(1,099.50)
Merchandise purchases	(10,216.65)		(11,169.47)		952.82
VC expenses	(228.96)		(262.45)		33.49
Postage	(46.49)		(233.08)		186.59
Stripe commission	(465.62)		(352.58)		(113.04)
		8,237.11		8,276.75	(39.64)
Projects					
Project payments: Woodlands gardens (TRP)	0.00		(76.00)		76.00
Project payments: Platinum Jubilee	0.00		(10,000.00)		10,000.00
		0.00		(10,076.00)	10,076.00
Ann Sayer Legacy		(10,000.00)		1,004.71	(11,004.71)
Total excess of income over (expenditure) for year		4,934.46		6,420.05	(1,485.59)
Opening funds		56,161.39		49,741.34	
Funds at 31 December 2023		61,095.85		56,161.39	
Balances					
Current		£ 14,724.49		£ 20,410.09	
Business 1		0.00		0.40	
Business 2		45,133.35		34,607.98	
Total cash in hand		59,857.84		55,018.47	
iZettle receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2023		303.92		201.11	
Stripe receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2023		610.07		697.16	
Cheques not credited to bank at 31 December 2023		104.00		0.00	
Cash taken in 2023 but not banked until 2024		220.02		244.65	
		61,095.85		56,161.39	
Gross income		35,667.76		36,465.72	(797.96)
Gross expenditure		(30,733.30)		(30,045.67)	(687.63)
Surplus in year		4,934.46		6,420.05	(1,485.59)

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund 1 January 2023 b/fwd		15,013.63			14,558.65	
Net (deficit) / surplus in year		64.66			454.98	
General fund c/fwd 31 December 2023		15,078.29			15,013.63	
Projects fund b/fwd		29,143.05			24,182.69	
Income from general donations	6,632.69			6,939.61		
Net income from merchandise trading	8,237.11			8,276.75		
		14,869.80			15,216.36	
<u>Expenditure in 2023</u>						
Woodland gardens	0.00			(256.00)		
Platinum Jubilee	0.00			(10,000.00)		
		0.00		(10,256.00)		
Projects fund c/fwd at 31 December 23		44,012.85			29,143.05	
Ann Sayer legacy		2,004.71			12,004.71	
Cash in hand at 31 December 2023		61,095.85			56,161.39	

Signed

Adrian Heywood

Adrian Heywood (FCCA)
Hon. Treasurer
FBHP
27 February 2024

Signed

Jason Hughes

Jason Hughes
Independent Examiner
27 February 2024

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. 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 examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

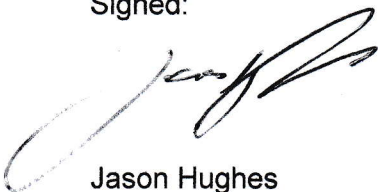
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 27 February 2024

Friends of Bushy and Home Park

Annual Report for 2023/24

This is my eighth annual report to Members. It is a privilege to represent you, the members, in our dealings with The Royal Parks and Historic Royal Palaces, and with other stakeholders who manage and enjoy these two wonderful, semi-wild, natural spaces.

We members are very conscious of the amazing resource these parks provide. They are places that are good for us. They are places of great history. They are repositories of fascinating wildlife. These parks provide us with well-being and space to enjoy nature. They support thousands of natural species with important habitats and the conditions for their survival. These parks are far more important than many people realise. But you, the Friends, know it.

The Friends role is to promote respectful use of the parks by visitors and to support the parks for future generations to enjoy. Each year these become more difficult and fragile aims, due to climate change and the increasing demands of a human population which wants to enjoy the parks. As I reported last year, climate change is making the life of the parks and their management anything but straightforward. The staff and contractors in The Royal Parks and in Historic Royal Palaces are doing their very best to conserve the parks for whatever the future holds.

Let me turn to the past year of Friends activity. It could be described as the year of Buggy, Bench, and Bingo. I will expand on this headline.

In 2023 we ran a trial service using an electric buggy to carry visitors between the Diana car park and the Pheasantry car park. This was to mitigate difficulties faced by people with limited personal mobility who cannot now be driven by car along the no-through-road of Chestnut Avenue. The Friends provided around a dozen volunteer drivers for the buggy. I am very grateful for the volunteer drivers' commitment, patience, and good humour. They rapidly became yet another asset to the park as they inter-acted with visitors. Establishing the buggy service was not without significant effort on our part, because it was fraught with administrative hurdles and with new policies which The Royal Parks implemented at the time.

We ran the trial on three days a week during several weeks of the summer. We were using a buggy loaned to us by Hyde Park. Unfortunately, the buggy was rather careworn and did not stand up to very many days of our use. It broke down irrecoverably after just 22 days, which prevented us from providing much of the planned summer period with a service. Nevertheless, in those few days we carried a total of 345 passengers, thereby proving the potential of the service. Our trial was successful, albeit the buggy itself let us down. Bushy Park is going to get a brand-new buggy of our own, although the procurement process is taking forever. We hope the service will commence by early summer. Apart from providing the shuttle service between the two car parks, we will use it to provide occasional park safaris to the further reaches of the park. The volunteer drivers became very adept at providing passengers with a tour guide commentary during the short journeys, and they are keen to show off their knowledge on safari!

Buggy, Bench and Bingo. I report on the bench because we commissioned the construction and installation of a new curved 10-seater bench, now located in the Pheasantry Plantation. This bench commemorates our late member, volunteer and benefactor, Ann Sayer. Some of you will be aware that Ann was a record-holding long-distance walker. She was the first British woman to walk 100 miles in under 24 hours, which allowed her to become a so-called "Centurion". The bench carries a plaque recording Ann's achievements and the bench uses her bequest to the Friends, which she left

us in her will. £10,000 has been spent on the bench. We have planted a tree alongside the bench. It is a Mountain Ash; Ann was also a mountain walker. She was also member of the Great Britain women's rowing team, and the tree is commonly known as a Rowan. Furthermore, the tree is characterised by its tall, stately, and upright growth, which is exactly how anyone would have described Ann. I hope you appreciate the deliberation which we took to choose that tree.

There is one other bench reference for which the Friends have responsibility. We have commissioned small sign plates to be fixed to several benches around the Skylark nesting areas in Bushy Park. These signs will aim to draw attention to visitors, and especially dog walkers, of the nesting areas. We hope the signs will make a difference. We haven't quite reached the point of banning dogs and fencing off the areas, as is being done in Richmond Park this year. The Royal Parks will monitor the impact of the policy in Richmond Park and determine if these rules will need to be implemented elsewhere. The poor skylarks are suffering and each year we fear for their non-return. They are an absolute joy to hear in the summer.

Buggy, bench, and Bingo!

Those of you who regularly bring young children into Bushy Park may know about Bushy Bingo. This is a simple game for young children to look for specific items as they progress around the park. They can collect from the Visitor Centre a free Bingo Sheet which contains pictures of seasonal items. They tick off these items as they spot them and if they bring the completed sheet back to our volunteers in the Visitor Centre they are awarded a very large sticker which proclaims them to be a Bushy Park Champion. We introduced the game early in 2023, and a new sheet of items is issued for each season. It is proving very popular and effective in getting young children to become more interested in their natural surroundings in the park.

If I was to continue with the alliterative B theme it could be beetles, bristles, bridge and building.

Building, because you will have seen many of the actions being taken in Bushy Park. Hundreds of new young trees planted as a succession plan for trees which will reach an end to life. The removal of invasive plant species, and clearance of strangling undergrowth. Removal of bracken which has spread too far. The erection of new fencing, which protects areas, permits wildlife corridors, allows light to reach plantations, and will last longer. The protection of older trees from root compaction while protecting visitors from falling branches. The planting of thousands of bulbs and shrubs. Waterways cleared and other drainage improvements. Wider, permeable, pathways allowing visitors to stay on the path instead of eroding grassland. Benches for resting and enjoying views. Parts of the park which have been hidden are now being opened to improve light, which improves growth, which improves habitats, and opens wildlife corridors for smaller creatures.

This Restoration programme in Bushy Park was implemented following the effects caused by visits during the Covid pandemic. It comes to an end this Spring by which time over £2million pounds will have been spent on it. The Friends have been consulted and involved in decisions about all of this. On your behalf, I thank The Royal Parks for their commitment and hard work in this restoration programme.

Beetles of the Dung Variety, or varieties, in fact. A survey by the Royal Parks ecologists has been undertaken identifying different dung beetle species in the park. The deer poo is an attraction for them. There are over 60 different species in Britain. As a child I was informed through television programmes about Dung Beetles in Africa. Perhaps like me therefore, you will have been surprised to learn that dung beetles are found under our very noses. Well maybe not close to our noses, but you know what I mean.

Bristles are of course my reference to the Hedgehog survey in Bushy Park carried out by ZSL for The Royal Parks. While the precise details of the survey remain confidential at this time, what has been announced is that Bushy Park contains a thriving hedgehog population. The use of motion sensitive cameras identified these nocturnal creatures. What I can say is that there are many dozens of the animals running around the park at night in the summer. That is a joyful result, given the national population of hedgehogs has declined disastrously over the past three or four decades.

A Bridge. Many of you will know there is a bridge over the Longford River in the Nature Reserve area of Brewhouse Fields. It isn't accessible to the general public but is very picturesque and can be seen from the path at the end of Dukes Head Passage. For some reason the bridge is shown on old maps of the park area but does not bear a name. Some research was undertaken by Graham Dillamore using very old documents which were held in the Hampton Court Palace archives and together with him and Phil Edwards, David Ivison and I went to have a look at the bridge. It bears a stone dating it to the George III period. As we stood on the bridge we spotted a Kingfisher in the stream a little way down-river. It was immediately determined that, in the absence of any other name, we will refer to it as Kingfisher Bridge.

I have strained my credibility with you by finding topics beginning with the letter B. I will stop now, and report on our engagement with Home Park.

It continues to be a peaceful and charming oasis for most of the year. One of the most important changes in that park, from the perspective of the Friends, has been the appointment of a second full-time Ranger. She is Eleanor Evetts, and she works alongside Russell Downs, who many of you know is chiefly responsible for the deer herd. Eleanor has been very proactive in looking for ways to engage the Friends in further supporting activity in Home Park. She is looking at wildlife and habitat projects we can support. Working with our Rebecca Harvey, Eleanor is helping to establish a new "Introduction to Home Park Walk" which they will be implementing this year. We have published the dates of those walks on our website, and they will also appear on our notice boards at the Visitor Centre and in our Newsletter.

We have been in discussions with Home Park management for a couple of years about improving the public access gate at the Kingston entry point. That gate is next to the cattle grid and is not exactly straightforward for mobility scooters and for children's pushchairs. A redesign is necessary. The Friends offered to fund a new gate and I am pleased to announce this should be going ahead in 2024. We are paying for the new gate with a £10,000 grant from our funds to Home Park.

Members will be keen to hear my annual update report on the ongoing tale of the Space Sapling. This apple tree was grown from a seed taken from Isaac Newton's apple tree, and taken into space by astronaut Tim Peake, as an experiment to determine if space travel and no gravity had any effect on seedling growth. As I reported last year, and despite great care for it, the tree died. Proving space travel for an apple seed is not beneficial. Nevertheless, NPL kindly set the remains of the tree in a display case which is now in the Bushy Park Visitor Centre. Our volunteers can describe the unusual story of the Space Sapling to interested park users, who might otherwise simply wonder why we have a dead bit of tree in a Perspex display case...

I want to record here my gratitude to Sue Robertson, our volunteer manager of the Visitor Centre. She keeps our displays relevant, seasonal, and pristine. She spends a lot of her time thinking about what visitors might find interesting and useful, and she enjoys finding new items of merchandise that we can offer as souvenirs and mementoes for park visitors, whilst boosting our funds for new projects. In the past year we have had several pop-up exhibitions in the Centre, covering hedgehogs, trees, and

the Woodland Gardens. One of our volunteers, Moya Meredith Smith, has used her past professional expertise to obtain and display a variety of different invertebrates and animal skeletons, and a substantial number of these exhibits have been encased in resin to protect them for small children to examine. Moya found a PhD student, Erica Fischer, who undertook the resin encasement for us.

We have recently introduced a card-preferred payment policy at the Visitor Centre. While we will still take cash payments, they represent a small minority of transactions at the Centre. For us, the administration of cash is disproportionately cumbersome, as it requires weekly cashing up, checking, keeping securely, and taking to the bank. We will also continue to take cash at events where we set up our stall and at Talks and other events where people offer donations.

I must record here our sorrow at the death during the year of our long-time stalwart member and volunteer Vic Lewis. Vic's wife Diana has researched, designed, illustrated, and produced several of our booklets, leaflets, and other items for park visitors to enjoy. Vic led many walks not just for the Friends, but Richmond Health walks, too. Vic and Diana were an inseparable couple with a lovely family. Our condolences and best wishes go to Diana and family.

On a much happier note, I shall also record here our delight in July at the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Royal Parks given to Pieter Morpurgo, our Honorary President, by The Royal Parks Guild. Pieter has served the Friends for several decades, as Trustee, as Chairman, as volunteer, as public speaker on our behalf, and as a fund-raiser. This was the very first time the Guild has made an award to a member of a Royal Parks Friends Group.

We spent a lot of Friends' time planning for a revival of Chestnut Sunday in 2024. With The Royal Parks, we had ascertained the sort of event that should be held, with environmentally friendly, community-based, activities. We were hoping to include more music and possibly dancing displays, and a parade which would replicate the origins of the event. We had hoped to find ways to celebrate the modern history of the park whilst avoiding fume-belching military vehicles. I am very grateful to a group of keen volunteers who were instrumental in working up the plans. We had got some way along the planning path when it became clear that The Royal Parks team in Bushy Park were already overloaded with the Restoration programme and simply would not have the capacity to take on a full-blown Chestnut Sunday. The management of the event is for The Royal Parks, not the Friends, of course. We acknowledged that the park Restoration has higher priority than a one-day event. We needed to re-think our plans, to hold an event which will place minimal demands on the park staff. We will, instead of a big event, promote a day of picnicking along the Avenue, with an exhibition of wildlife photography, and more guided walks. Weather permitting, of course.

The other substantial achievement by the Friends in the past year has been our programme of walks and talks. I must thank and congratulate Rebecca Harvey for being the engine behind all this. We have held 50% more walks and used more volunteer walk leaders and experts than in previous years. We have had some fascinating talks, culminating in a most excellent one given just before Christmas by Tracy Borman, the joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces. Alongside the successful arrangements for the talks, I know Rebecca was faced with turmoil finding venues following the sudden unavailability of Normansfield Theatre. That was due to Normansfield's Victorian heating system dying. The hiring fee has now increased substantially to pay for the new heating system, so we are having to look elsewhere. We are now rather like a Rock Band on tour, although our tour is confined to venues in the neighbourhoods bordering the parks.

We operated another successful year at the Visitor Centre, with our volunteers engaging with 17,712 visitors to the park. We assisted The Royal Parks with their two Nature Roadshows in Bushy Park at

easter and in August. We did tree and shrub and bulb planting in Mary's Glade near the Waterhouse Pond. We set up our stall at the Teddington Fair, on one of the hottest days of the year. At Christmas we were pleased to host the Quire who sang Carols at the Pheasantry café. Overall, it seems a successful year.

I will add finally, that one of the things I have lobbied The Royal Parks about in the past year is the Childrens Playground and the nearby toilets. A proposal was put forward by The Royal Parks' Landscape Architects to improve equipment, layout, and landscaping of the Childrens Playground. I was asked to comment on it. I stressed the need for plans to improve accessibility for children and carers with disabilities and provide a challenging but safe environment whose design reflects that it is part of this historic park, not just a place in which play equipment is located. They are taking these comments into account. However, Phil Edwards and I both drew attention to the need to sort out the ongoing problems which occur with the nearby toilets, frequently blocking up and which are rather unwelcoming, as a priority. If the playground is improved and attracts even more use, then the toilets will be even more of a problem if not fixed. The sequence of work must be that the toilets are fixed before the playground has substantial work. I will continue to press The Royal Parks on these matters.

What are our Projects planned for 2024?

We will start the fully operational electric buggy service in Bushy Park.

We expect to see the installation of the new Kingston Gate pedestrian entry to Home Park.

We will commence the new Introduction to Home Park walks.

We will establish Chestnut Sunday in 2024 as a low-key event and will plan to extend it in 2025.

We will hold small event related to Camp Griffiss and the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

We are supporting the introduction of green roofs on some of the litter bin stores in Bushy Park.

We will assist in the protection of the Skylark nesting areas through education and advice.

We aim to provide a new pergola at the Waterhouse Pond viewing platform. This will replace one which used to be there but eventually rotted away more than a decade ago.

We may fund extra shelters at the kiosk outside seating area, by the Pheasantry car park.

We may fund one of the new replacement bridges which are to be installed in the Waterhouse Plantation of in the Woodland Gardens.

We will continue to support the tree strategy for succession planting in Bushy Park.

Membership

Our membership secretary, Susan Hugill, reports that membership stood at 1520 at the end of 2023.

Donations

Every year, members and visitors show their appreciation for the parks and for our endeavours as Friends, with their generous donations. Our thanks to all for your gifts to the parks.

Volunteers

We currently have over 70 volunteers who operate the Visitor Centre and provide other assistance. They are a friendly and enthusiastic team who enjoy helping visitors.

They are volunteer walk leaders, volunteer buggy drivers, and the staff who operate the Visitor Centre. Together they provided an impressive total of 1,939 hours of service in 2023. We are hugely grateful to all of them, as they make a significant difference to the parks.

I want to record here my thanks to Elizabeth Malone, who took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator in the Spring of 2023. The handover from her predecessor, Rosemary MacColl, was seamless and Elizabeth has thrown her energy and expertise into the role very successfully.

Keeping in Touch

Jeannie Edwards edits our four seasonal newsletters. David Meanwell keeps the website relevant and secure for visitors to use. Susan Hugill, Rebecca Harvey and Jeannie Edwards have issued occasional and urgent informative messages to members. We try to keep members up to date and informed sufficiently, without overwhelming you with our communications.

Trustees and Officers

Our Trustees and other officers of FBHP have continued to work hard during the past year on behalf of the membership and in support of both parks. One or two Trustees are considering retiring from their posts next year, despite my blandishments for them to continue. We will therefore be looking at succession planning as 2024 unfolds. People who wish to become Trustees should ideally have a skillset, or experience, which can add to the capabilities of our committee. Above all, they need to appreciate the importance of these parks and have a desire to support them for the long term.

And finally

We continue to enjoy these two parks as they face climate change and increased numbers of visitors. The Friends work closely with the police, the volunteer Rangers, and the management teams in both parks. We are grateful for all their hard work.

I am especially grateful to Phil Edwards the Bushy Park manager and Nicholas Garbutt from Historic Royal Palaces for their comments to the Trustees at a recent committee meeting. They said that the quality of the relationship that the Friends have with their two organisations means that we are regarded as part of the overall team which looks after these parks. They and their staffs appreciate that we provide not just financial support and physical support to their activities, but often moral support too. Especially as they wrestle with demands and criticisms from special interest groups who have no insight of the often-delicate balance these parks maintain. It is gratifying that we have that appreciation from the two organisations.

I want to record my thanks to all the trustees, officers of the committee, volunteers, other helpers, and especially you the members for your continuing interest and support. It is the aim of us all to ensure the protection and conservation of these wonderful parks for future generations to enjoy.

Colin Muid Chair, Friends of Bushy and Home Parks.

March 2024.

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1137203

Accounts

Friends of Bushy and Home Park

Annual Report for 2022/23

I was surprised to realise that this is my seventh annual report to Members. Proof that time flies when you are enjoying yourself. Being Chair of the Friends is quite rewarding when one can see the positive differences we can make.

That said, I have to spend some of my time explaining to some park users that we, the Friends, and in particular myself, do not actually manage the parks.

Neighbouring communities fully appreciate these parks and a widening set of visitors from further afield have discovered them, too. The Friends help visitors enjoy the parks, with information, education, and guidance. At the same time, we keep an eye on the potential for deterioration in the parks which can be caused by the weight of visitor numbers and by their sometimes-ill-informed behaviours, and of course we like to keep The Royal Parks' and Historic Royal Palaces' staff up to the mark!

The past year has seen further evidence that our climate is no longer as constant as it once was. We had a serious drought for several months. That was followed by storms which caused some damage and then a very wet period with dramatic rainfalls. It has made the life of the parks and their management anything but straightforward.

I was invited at one point to participate in the long-term planning for the Bushy Park Woodland Gardens. I joined a variety of experts from The Royal Parks as they sat round the conference table and swapped views about the impact of different climate change future scenarios. All scenarios look bleak as some species of flora and fauna will be affected. The real difficulty facing those experts is that nobody knows how the future will pan out so, at best, they can only make informed guesses.

The staff and contractors in The Royal Parks and in Historic Royal Palaces are doing their very best to conserve the parks for whatever the future holds.

Speaking of which, you will have seen an enormous amount of work taking place in Bushy Park in the past year, initiated by Phil Edwards, Park Manager and assisted by Jo Scrivenor, the Assistant Park Manager from Richmond Park, to both of whom we owe gratitude. They have worked hard to redesign and replant the Woodland Gardens.

Paths have been restored, widened, and aesthetically redirected. They are now better able to accommodate wheelchairs and children's buggies. Along some of the edges are small railings to constrain footfall, there are newly seeded and planted areas, and places for new seating benches.

Fences are being improved, with metal estate-style fencing replacing worn out and rotting timber paling. Metal fencing has a lifespan of up to 100 years compared to up to 25 years for wooden fencing. This new fencing opens views into and out of the Woodland Gardens and allows more light for growing plants, while still protecting them from the deer. It will be painted once the bright steel has oxidised.

Trees are being lopped and removed where they are diseased and dangerous, and to improve light and soil conditions allowing new growth below the canopy. More invasive Rhododendron Ponticum has been removed from the Woodland Gardens.

The watercourses are being improved by new revetments and extensive silt removal, with waterside planting being introduced to increase resilience.

Camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons are being pruned for the first time in many years, with the aim of increasing their flowering and their lives for several more decades.

The Woodland Gardens are now being redesigned with new planting to come, changes to various glades, and plans for a small arboretum in the Waterhouse Plantation.

Refurbishments to the Pheasantry café currently under way will enable further improvements to the outside area.

For much of this work I am pleased to tell you that the park manager consulted the Friends before decisions were finalised. We were asked to help with redesigning the Woodland Gardens, with ideas for the future of the Children's Playground, and with tree removals and replacement planting. For several of us Trustees therefore, it has been a very busy and productive year as we have been engaged in these plans, and we look forward to the results continuing to emerge over the next few years.

In Home Park there is less obvious change. It continues to be a peaceful place, at least it was until the return of the annual RHS Flower Show, after which it rapidly restored itself to the tranquil space, we all enjoy. The palace, the gardens, and the park have again featured on Channel 5 television programmes during the year, where you can spot your favourite gardener, wildlife officer, or estate manager.

I should record here some changes among park staff which you will wish to note. First, the appointment of Dan Steel as the manager of Longford River, a role which has been established to ensure dedicated care of the river and its banks all the way from Heathrow to Hampton Court. Second, the appointment of Vincent Quartermaine as Head Gardener at Bushy Park, following the resignation of Sharon Evans from that post. Third, the arrival of Alex Wigley as the new Head of Gardens and Parks at Historic Royal Palaces, taking over from Terry Gough. Lastly, our congratulations to Jill Beckley in the Park Office on her promotion to the post of Technical Officer at Bushy Park.

While I am mentioning people, I would like to take a moment here to record our appreciation of Sheena Harold, who died after a short illness in January. Sheena, as many of you know, was the Chairman of the Teddington Society and often almost single-handedly got things done by the Society for the good of the community. She was a long-time member of the Friends and supported our activities generously and enthusiastically. She is sadly missed.

Issues affecting the parks.

You will be aware that a decision was reached in 2022 by The Royal Parks to confirm the permanent closure of Chestnut Avenue to through traffic.

This followed a two-year trial and a period of public consultation and is part of a wider Movement Strategy affecting all eight Royal Parks in London. The intention now is for the temporary planters which obstruct the avenue to be replaced by permanent structures. The aim is for the middle section of the avenue to continue as an area for visitors' recreational purposes, adding usable space to the park and enabling wildlife safe passage.

Car parking charges in Bushy Park remain on the stocks but await parliamentary time for legislation to permit implementation. We have no indication when this may happen.

Chestnut Sunday will be restored to the Bushy Park calendar in 2024. A public communication to this effect was published by The Royal Parks before Christmas. The aim is to hold a community-based and eco-friendly event. The Friends will partner with The Royal Parks to facilitate planning Chestnut Sunday and engaging with participating groups in the year ahead.

We had to engage in a small and short-lived altercation with The Royal Parks early last summer over a planning application submitted by them to Richmond Council. It was about a new catering kiosk location proposed near Ash Walk. Suffice to say that following our discussion with those responsible for the application it was shelved.

We have more recently suggested that the Children's Playground is an obvious location for an additional catering kiosk, should they be looking for a spot in future. As my own grandchildren enjoy the playground when they are looking after me, I am only too aware that a welcome addition would be a small catering facility by the playground. That, and substantially improved toilet facilities. These suggestions are being considered in the medium-term plans for the park (because such proposals must find their place in priorities and budgets). While we wait for those facilities, you can expect to see improved landscaping of the playground and new play equipment over the next year or two.

Meanwhile, the Ice Cream van which is pitched up near the Children's Playground each summer, powered by running a continuous diesel engine in a most eco-unfriendly manner, is to be powered instead by electricity from this summer onwards.

Turning to Home Park, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) suffered massive loss of income during the pandemic and had to reduce staff numbers. The HRP business model has been significantly changed following this massive loss. Different staffing arrangements, the continued closure of Lion Gate, reduced opening times for the palace, and changes to estate, gardens, and park maintenance are consequences which you will spot.

Projects undertaken in 2022

Queens Planting

Members will know that it was our plan to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with suitable major planting in Bushy Park and Home

Park. As it turned out, the planting was to become a commemoration of the late Queen's reign as much as a Jubilee installation.

In the Woodland Gardens, in what is known as Mary's Glade which is a large area near the Waterhouse Pond, we have accomplished our plan. A team of Royal Parks experts and two Friends Trustees spent some months designing the layout of the space. We then donated £10,000 to The Royal Parks to procure the trees, shrubs, and flowers. In late January 2023 we undertook the planting, with those expert designers and many volunteers involved. A few days later we added some bulbs and other woodland flowers with some volunteers who could not make the first day. The glade will eventually carry a plaque explaining what it is and how it was created.

We are still waiting for Home Park to decide what and where it wishes to use our funds for this commemorative purpose, but it is hoped it will be a small copse of trees.

Ann Sayer Legacy

We plan to use the substantial legacy from Ann Sayer, a former member and volunteer, to reflect her interest in the parks. Several members who walked routes with Ann have helped us to produce three walking trail route guides. These impressive documents are available at the Visitor Centre. We will also commission a special bench to indicate the start and end of the trails. The aim is for the bench's design to reflect Ann Sayer's achievements. The installation of the bench will await improvements to the surface outside the Pheasantry café area to be finished in 2024. A single specimen tree is being planted for Ann in the Woodland Gardens, and the remainder of her legacy will be used for tree planting along the trails around the perimeter of Bushy Park.

Electric Buggy

We had proposed to The Royal Parks that an electric buggy should be introduced to ferry park visitors with personal mobility difficulties from the Diana car park to the Pheasantry. This was to mitigate the effect of closure of Chestnut Avenue to through traffic on such visitors. I am pleased to report that our suggestion was agreed, and Bushy Park has been given the use of a buggy for the coming year to test demand for such a service. The buggy will be driven and supported by volunteers from the Friends, with a service initially operating a few days midweek and one day at weekends. The details are still being determined but we hope to be running this from early May onwards.

Benches

Members will be aware that during the recent Autumn period we asked for suggestions for locations for additional benches around Bushy Park. This was an initiative by Phil Edwards, the park manager, who wanted the Friends to help him using our members' knowledge and regular use of the park. Those members who participated identified some 30 to 40 locations. The first benches are going into the Woodland Gardens, but others will be spread around the rest of the park in due course.

Nature Day

The Royal Parks ran a Nature Day in Bushy Park in the summer in which we participated, too. It aimed to engage families and other visitors with an understanding of the nature which can be found in the parks. The event was very successful, with many children attending with their parents. One highlight was a quiz game based on "Whose Poo?" I should point out this was the poo of different animals. Another highlight was guided walks of the park's Nature Reserve, an area only open to the wider public occasionally. The same sort of Nature Day was run in all the Royal Parks during the summer. We were told subsequently that the Bushy Park event was the most successful, in numbers attending, in the enthusiasm of visitors, and in the participation of the Friends.

Space Sapling

Members will be aware of my annual update report on the ongoing tale of the Space Sapling. This is the tree grown from a seed drawn from Isaac Newton's apple tree, several seeds of which were taken into space by astronaut Tim Peake, as an experiment to determine if six months in space had any effect on seedling growth. Well, sad to say, and despite great care for it, the tree has died. That suggests the outcome of the experiment shows space travel for an apple seed is not beneficial. However, as part of Bushy Park's joint project with NPL, the sapling has been digitally scanned by the laboratory. This will provide an image to support educational purposes. The remains of the tree have been preserved in a display case. So, we can describe the unusual story of the Space sapling to interested park users at the Visitor Centre, for infinity and beyond...

Projects planned for 2023 and further years

We hope to further improve protection of the Skylark nesting areas. These birds are ground-nesting, and they are disturbed by dogs and walkers who do not keep to the paths and predated by other species. The bird is in decline nationally and it is one of the summer pleasures to be enjoyed in Bushy Park where they can be heard singing.

We are still aiming to assist Home Park improve the Kingston Gate. It is not easy access for people with disabilities and families with pushchairs. We have offered funding and are engaged in further discussions with Home Park managers who are obtaining designs and costs.

We hope to fund a small copse of trees in Home Park.

We aim to start the electric buggy service in Bushy Park.

We will progress the planning for restarting Chestnut Sunday in 2024.

It will be a major activity for the Friends to support the emerging Tree Strategy being drawn up by The Royal Parks in the year ahead. We will help fund succession planting of trees as more are suffering disease and climate damage.

We will plant the Ann Sayer commemorative tree and commission the design for a bench to be located as the start and end point of the Trails.

We intend to fund a replacement bridge in the Woodland Gardens in the next few years, aimed at enabling wheelchair access.

Finally, a long-term teaser project to whet our appetites. You may know of historical viewing mounds which were created in large estates in the 17th and 18th centuries, and which enabled the Lords of the Manor show off their huge estates to impress their guests. There may even have been one somewhere in Hampton Court Palace grounds. Well, Phil Edwards hopes to create a viewing mound in Bushy Park. It will occupy the huge mountain of spoil that was deposited behind the Pheasantry when the café was constructed and which currently forms part of the park yard, providing no benefit whatsoever. That pile reaches up to treetop height. Stand on it and you can see vistas across the park, and you are at the same height as the birds and bats which live in Broom Clumps, that oasis of trees alongside the road to the Pheasantry car park. You are also looking down on a pond that has accumulated naturally from rainwater behind the spoil-heap, and which will provide a habitat for aquatic life. It needs suitable natural planting to encourage more pollinators, a nice snaking path up to and over it, and access points for visitors at each end. Phil has already persuaded his Chief Executive, and my colleagues and I have supported the idea. If the Trustees of The Royal Parks approve the idea and put it into their overall plans and priorities it could happen in 5- or 6-years' time.

Membership

Susan Hugill, our excellent membership secretary, reports that membership now stands at almost 1500. The numbers have steadily increased over the past year, with almost 100 new joiners.

The new fee rates were introduced in January and some existing members have readily chosen to adopt the new rates. Those who prefer to remain on the old rates can do so. The new rates are applied automatically for new joiners.

Donations

Every year, members and visitors show their appreciation for the parks and for our endeavours as Friends, with their generous donations. 2022 was no different. Our thanks to all for your gifts to the parks.

Volunteers

We currently have 70 volunteers who operate the Visitor Centre and provide other assistance. They are a friendly and enthusiastic team who enjoy helping visitors. The Visitor Centre is now operating in its fourth year and over 13,000 visitors dropped in to learn about the park during 2022.

We have volunteer litter pickers, volunteer walk leaders, and volunteer buggy drivers, in addition to those who staff the Visitor Centre. We are hugely grateful to all of them, as they make a significant difference to the parks.

I want to record here our huge thanks to Trustee Rosemary MacColl who has organised the Visitor Centre as our Volunteer Coordinator. For the past 15 years she has recruited and trained them and supports them as they gain experience. She also edits our Facebook presence and she has been a vigorous member of the committee. Rosemary is stepping back from the coordinator role and

trusteeship this year. You may not be aware of what she has done, but those of us who do, are immensely appreciative.

Walks & Talks and Events

Rebecca Harvey has continued to manage a very successful and ambitious walks and talks programme. It was unfortunate that the Normansfield theatre suffered its boilers being condemned in January this year, as until then that venue had been an excellent home for our talks.

Keeping in Touch

Jeannie Edwards has edited the four seasonal newsletters. David Meanwell keeps the website relevant and secure for visitors to use. Susan Hugill, Rebecca Harvey and Jeannie Edwards have issued occasional and urgent informative messages to members. I hope members consider they are kept up to date and informed sufficiently, without feeling overwhelmed by our communications. We try to keep the balance right.

Trustees and Officers

Our Trustees and other officers of FBHP have continued to work hard during the past year on behalf of the membership and in support of both parks.

And finally

We continue to enjoy these two parks as they face climate change and increased numbers of visitors. The Friends work closely with the police, the volunteer Rangers, and the management teams in both parks. We are grateful for all their hard work.

I want to record my thanks to all the trustees, officers of the committee, volunteers, other helpers, and especially you the members for your continuing interest and support. It is the aim of us all to ensure the protection and conservation of these wonderful parks, for the long-term enjoyment of future generations.

Colin Muid

Chair

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks

March 2023.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-22

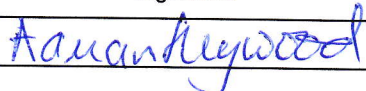
To

31-Dec-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General Subscriptions	5,668	-	-	5,668	5,499
Gift Aid	1,781	-	-	1,781	1,679
Bank Interest	39	-	-	39	1
Donations	7,679	-	-	7,679	4,263
Merchandise sales	20,294	-	-	20,294	16,347
Ann Sayer legacy	-	1,005	-	1,005	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,461	1,005	-	36,466	27,789
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,461	1,005	-	36,466	27,789
A3 Payments					
Education	2,107	-	-	2,107	389
Merchandise purchases	11,169	-	-	11,169	8,535
Donations	10,076	-	-	10,076	7,500
Printing & stationery & postage	2,253	-	-	2,253	1,580
IT/computing/website	1,513	-	-	1,513	1,697
Insurance	647	-	-	647	609
Miscellaneous	2,281	-	-	2,281	1,285
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	30,046	-	-	30,046	21,595
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	30,046	-	-	30,046	21,595
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,415	1,005	-	6,420	6,194
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,741	11,000	-	49,741	43,547
Cash funds this year end	44,156	12,005	-	56,161	49,741

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	44,156	12,005	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	44,156	12,005	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Adrian Heywood	15-Mar-23

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. 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 examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 3 February 2023

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1137203

Accounts

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

Income and Expenditure Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Cash in Hand

Cash in hand at 31 December 2021 was £49,741.34, compared with £43,546.70 at 31 December 2020, an increase of £6,194.64. It should be noted that stock of merchandise available for sale, held at 31 December 2021, amounted to £3,506.89 (2020: £2,977.23).

Income and Expenditure

General Fund Receipts in the year were 3.8% below the previous year. Payments from the General Fund were 15% lower. This principally arose on postage, floats and miscellaneous items. However, IT costs were higher owing to expenses incurred in connection with maintenance and development of the website.

General donations plus gift aid, at £5,102.71, were 10% lower than in 2020, principally on other donations – it seems fewer people are carrying cash!

The Visitor Centre was open for many more days compared with in 2020. This explains the 75% increase in sales during 2021.

£7,500 was paid to The Royals Parks in respect of their Woodlands Gardens project.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet at 31 December 2021 shows the allocation of cash in hand of £49,741.34: £14,558.65 held in respect of the General Fund, £24,182.70 is held as a projects fund; and £11,000 is held in respect of Ann Sayer's legacy for projects to be chosen by the Trustees

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by:

Adrian Heywood

Adrian Heywood (FCCA)

Hon. Treasurer

FBHP

9 February 2022

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)
Income & expenditure year ended 31 December 2021

At 31 December 2021

	31 December 2021		31 December 2020	
	£	£	£	£
General Fund Receipts				
General Subscriptions	5,499.00		5,570.50	
Gift Aid (50%) received on prior year	839.44		1,009.95	
Summer Party - ticket sales			0.00	
Bank Interest	1.46		12.80	
		6,339.90		6,593.25
Payments from General Fund				
Summer Party			0.00	
Printing and Publicity	(1,240.00)		(1,362.07)	
Stationery, Stamps and Postage	(339.59)		(998.50)	
Insurance	(608.90)		(576.30)	
IT (hardware, software, licences)	(1,447.43)		(595.67)	
Membermojo	(250.00)		(250.00)	
Stripe commission				
Float - Trustee/Volunteers	0.00		(400.00)	
Miscellaneous Items	(372.56)		(835.76)	
		(4,258.48)		(5,018.30)
Surplus of receipts from General fund over expenditure		2,081.42		1,574.95
Education				
Events, AGM and Walks and Talks	(316.24)		(501.42)	
Leaflets	(73.17)		(480.19)	
		(389.41)		(981.61)
Donations				
General Donations	3,484.95		3,118.92	
Other donations (incl buckets)	778.32		1,545.39	
Gift Aid (50%) received on prior year	839.44		1,009.95	
		5,102.71		5,674.26
Ann Sayer Legacy		0.00		11,000.00
VC Appeal receipts				
Visitor Centre	0.00		0.00	
Visitor Centre expenses		0.00		0.00
Merchandise				
Merchandise sales	15,554.32		8,915.89	
Merchandise purchases	(7,742.40)		(4,673.99)	
Shop expenses	(515.87)		(504.00)	
Stripe commission	(396.12)		(143.43)	
		6,899.93		3,594.47
Website		0.00		(4,265.00)
Project payments: Woodlands gardens (TRP)		(7,500.00)		(5,000.00)
Total excess of income over (expenditure) for year		6,194.64		11,597.07
Funds at start of year		43,546.70		31,949.63
Funds at end of year		49,741.34		43,546.70
Balances		£		£
Current		34,326.92		28,978.93
Business 1		0.40		0.40
Business 2		14,568.83		14,567.37
Total cash in hand		48,896.15		43,546.70
iZettle receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2021		161.85		0.00
Stripe receipts not credited to bank at 31 Dec 2021		683.34		0.00
		49,741.34		43,546.70

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	31-Dec-21 £	31-Dec-21 £	31-Dec-21 £	31-Dec-20 £	31-Dec-20 £	31-Dec-20 £
General fund b/fwd						
Net surplus in year		13,848.25 2,081.42			12,052.33 1,795.92	13,848.25
			15,929.67			
Education						
General fund c/fwd 31 Dec 2021			(1,371.02)			(981.61)
			14,558.65			12,866.64
Projects fund b/fwd						
<u>Income in 2021</u>		18,430.06			19,897.30	
Income from general donations	5,102.71			5,674.26		
Net income from merchandise trading	6,899.93			3,877.50		
		12,002.64			9,551.76	
<u>Expenditure in 2021</u>						
Woodland gardens	(6,250.00)			(5,000.00)		
New website				(4,265.00)		
VC maintenance				(504.00)		
Teddington in Flower (see below)				(1,250.00)		
		(6,250.00)			(11,019.00)	
Projects fund c/fwd at 31 Dec 21			24,182.70			18,430.06
Teddington in Flower committed			0.00			1,250.00
Ann Sayer legacy			11,000.00			11,000.00
Cash in hand at 31 December 2021			<u>49,741.34</u>			<u>43,546.70</u>

Signed

Adrian Heywood.

Adrian Heywood (FCCA)
Hon. Treasurer
FBHP
9 February 2022

Signed

Jason Hughes

Jason Hughes
Independent Examiner

9 February 2022

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. 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 examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

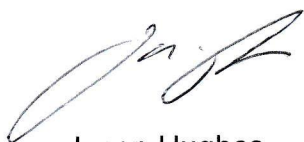
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 9 February 2022

Friends of Bushy and Home Park

Trustees Annual Report for 2021

Once again, the year has been dominated by the Covid-19 virus. The rigours and restrictions caused by the pandemic have emphasised how essential the parks are for maintaining the well-being of the people who visit them. We are immensely grateful to the staffs of the parks for keeping them open.

There are downsides to the popularity of the parks as increasing numbers of visitors seek them out as places for recreation and recuperation. Wear and tear of footpaths and grasslands increases from greater footfall, litter increases, and uncontrolled off-road cycling damages areas vital to both parks' SSSI status. During the year there have been several problematic encounters in the two parks between dogs, deer, and people.

The positive side is that both parks continue to be places which interest, restore, and reinvigorate visitors. Our volunteers hear stories from visitors about how much the parks are appreciated, and membership of the Friends continues to grow steadily as a demonstration of that appreciation. The Visitor Centre has been an attraction for visitors throughout the year following its re-opening at Easter.

In Bushy Park the manager, Phil Edwards, has continued with enthusiasm during his second year here. He has introduced changes to the maintenance programme, to cope with a reduction of 20% in his budget. For example, grass cutting has been reduced in places where it makes sense to do so, and Shire horses have been used instead of heavy machinery as they are kinder to nature. A programme of new hedging and fencing along various boundaries has begun. There has been substantial succession planting of Hawthorn, together with 13 large specimen trees. Major work clearing and improving several ponds and waterways in the Woodland Gardens was undertaken as part of the Mission: Invertebrate programme, using funding from the People's Postcode Lottery. Some extra government grant from DCMS has also been provided, in recognition of the role of The Royal Parks during the pandemic, which is being used to address damage to paths and lawns.

The Friends were delighted to see the installation of a new pedestrian gate at the Hampton Court end of Chestnut Avenue. This is something we have been pressing to be done for almost 10 years.

The Woodland Gardens have been subject to obvious alterations, notably the removal of *Rhododendron Ponticum* in the two plantations. The plant is an invasive toxic species, that is illegal to plant now, and Natural England has asked parks to remove it. Following removal there will be replanting with native species, to improve habitat for invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife. For the time being, the areas have been sown with grass which, with the reduced shade canopy, will aid soil recovery. The Friends' plan is to help fund the replanting in future years. New metal gates are to be installed at various entrances to the Woodland Gardens in 2022.

In Home Park there has been less obvious change, although the park continues to delight and is well-maintained, despite significant staff reductions and budgetary constraints. Members may have seen some of the television programmes on Channel 5 featuring the palace gardens and park team which have been broadcast during the year.

Issues affecting the parks

The Royal Parks proposed to introduce car parking charges in Bushy Park at some point in the next year or so. It is aimed to cope with parking space over-subscription through timed ticketing, and it will provide income for the maintenance of the car parks. However, the legislation necessary to

implement the proposal has not been given a slot in the parliamentary programme, and it seems increasingly unlikely this will occur this year. The FBHP Trustees acknowledge the need to manage parking over-subscription and park income. We have suggested that local users should be able to visit at certain times free of charge.

The Royal Parks' Movement Strategy, which the FBHP Trustees support, establishes an order of priority among park users, viz. first wildlife, then pedestrians, then horse riders, cyclists, and lastly motor vehicles. In Bushy Park the proposal closes Chestnut Avenue to through traffic. The Friends have continued in the past year to receive a few requests asking us to object to this proposal. We have received other requests asking us to support the closure. FBHP is a charity which aims to campaign to support and conserve the park; we do not exist to lobby on behalf of car users who wish to keep the road open simply for through traffic. Anecdotal evidence, since no through road was introduced, shows the park, its inhabitants, and its visitors, now enjoy a more tranquil and less polluted park environment. We are aware that visitors who wish to reach the Pheasantry café and Woodland Gardens from the Diana car park will benefit from improved pathway access, and we will continue to press for this improvement on their behalf. The final decision on closure of the avenue, or not, for the long term, has still to be made by The Royal Parks following the trial. We may know more later this year.

In 2020, Teddington Cricket Club's new fencing created some controversy, mainly because it had no pedestrian access to the cricket pitch from nearby the Coleshill Road and Clapperstile gates. Our polite discussions with The Royal Parks during 2021 led to the creation of pedestrian access points on the Coleshill path.

Projects in 2021

FBHP Trustees approved a further £5000 funding to support the removal of *Rhododendron Ponticum* in the Woodland Gardens. We anticipate future funding of parts of the replanting scheme.

The Royal Parks undertook improvement of Triss's Pond and the watercourse and sluice feeding it. This was funded by Mission: Invertebrate and the People's Postcode Lottery.

Around 25 FBHP members undertook the replanting of the Pheasantry car park in November, as a major part of the scheme to use species which can cope with the prevailing harsh conditions in this area. Sharon Evans, the head gardener, has designed this based on ideas drawn from the "Derek Jarman" garden at Dungeness. The plants were funded by a large donation from Teddington Society's 2019 "Teddington in Flower" event, coupled with a matching donation from FBHP, totalling £2500.

Members will be aware of the ongoing tale of the Space Sapling. This is the tree grown from a seed drawn from Isaac Newton's apple tree, of which several seeds were taken into space by astronaut Tim Peake, to determine if six months in space had any effect on seedling growth. On the face of it, there is an effect, which seems to be to slow down and weaken the development of the tree. At least, those are the effects on our sapling. It is not yet in a suitably robust state for planting out in the park and continues to be looked after in The Royal Parks nursery in Hyde Park. However, as part of our joint project with NPL, the sapling has been digitally scanned by the laboratory. This will provide a baseline image for the tree's development and will support educational purposes.

Projects planned for 2022 and beyond

This coming year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Both parks are royal parks, and it is fitting that the Jubilee should be marked in them. The Trustees have proposed this should be done with mature, native, tree planting in each park, and have offered £10,000 in total to achieve this. We are in

discussions with the park managers to determine which species and which locations will be most appropriate. The trees will not be planted until the autumn of 2022.

We are pressing for measures to improve protection of the Skylark nesting areas. These birds are ground-nesting, and they are disturbed by dogs and walkers who do not keep to the paths. The species is in decline nationally and they represent one of the summer pleasures to be enjoyed in Bushy Park when they can be heard and seen singing in flight.

We have considered a suggestion by Phil Edwards for the Friends to use the Round Plantation as a conservation and education area. This overgrown, and largely unmanaged, plantation is fenced and gated so not accessed by the public. It needs substantial clearance to provide access. Instead of the Friends taking this on, the committee has suggested that it should be a long-term project for the newly-created Royal Parks Conservation Volunteers. FBHP can then support its use with re-wilding, appropriate conservation projects, and learning opportunities for members and groups of visitors.

In Home Park the Kingston Gate does not facilitate easy access for people with disabilities and families with pushchairs. FBHP has offered to fund an improved gate for such access. We await further discussions with Home Park managers regarding designs and costs.

Membership

Our membership now stands at 1420. Most new members now join through our online facility on the website.

Our Membership Secretary, Susan Hugill, is making excellent use of the new membership system. This system enables membership renewal on the anniversary of joining, something which may seem an obvious procedure but was previously not possible, which is why renewals of every membership used to have to take place in January.

In the latter part of 2021, the Trustees decided that membership fee rates and types should be reviewed in the light of our increasing running costs. Our fee rates having remained unchanged since 1991 when FBHP was created. A small working party of trustees and officers was established, and their findings and recommendations are to be found in a separate paper and proposal to members for decision at the AGM.

Trustees and Officers

I am pleased to record that our Trustees and other officers of FBHP have worked hard this year on behalf of the membership and in support of both parks, despite the difficulties imposed by Covid restrictions. I can report to members that the committee is vigorous, focused and provides excellent leadership to FBHP.

Donations

As in each year, members and visitors manifest their enjoyment and support for the parks with generous donations. 2021 has been no different. My thanks to all for your gifts to the parks.

Volunteers

We currently have 45 volunteers who operate the Visitor Centre. We have had to restrict access to the children's discovery desk during the pandemic but we have introduced several new exhibits in display cases. The fact that these exhibits include a rat skeleton, a grass snake skin, a Cardinal spider and a badger skull, provides enough fascination for the children who dare to take a look.

We also have 28 litter pickers who frequently patrol both parks including Barge Walk alongside Home Park. The park managers are enormously grateful for the litter picking, as the costs of refuse collection and disposal are high, and the amount of litter has increased during the pandemic.

Walks & Talks and Events

Many members will have attended the programme of walks and talks which was restarted in July, and which has continued apace ever since. The current programme extends through to the end of 2022 with some dozen or more events planned. I must congratulate and thank Rebecca Harvey for picking up the organiser's baton and tackling the role with enthusiasm and imagination. She has set a cracking pace and I am sure that those who have missed our talks and walks during the various lockdowns are now thoroughly enjoying the return of these events.

We are using an online booking system to control numbers and ensure safety, with priority always given to members. We have made arrangements with our members who do not use digital technology for them to be informed of the programme and for them to be able to book attendances.

Chestnut Sunday was not held in 2021 due to the pandemic. There are no plans for it to be held in 2022. The aim is to reintroduce it to the park annual programme in the future but in a revised form which is more environmentally appropriate, and we await discussions with park management.

We are arranging for the Jazz in the Park concert in June to be supported by the Friends.

Keeping in Touch

We have issued four seasonal newsletters, managed through her first full year by our volunteer editor, Jeannie Edwards. She is introducing one or two of her own ideas to keep the editions interesting and where appropriate, amusing.

Our website continues to be a source of information to members and visitors and is now the primary route for recruitment of new members. It is updated frequently with news items and with details of our events. We are grateful to David Meanwell, our volunteer website editor, for ensuring we remain relevant, up to date, and secure in the digital world.

And finally

We continue to enjoy these two parks as they face climate change, reduced resources, and increased numbers of visitors. The Friends work closely with the police, the volunteer Rangers, and management teams for both parks. We are grateful to them, and to the contractors, for their care in keeping the parks open in these difficult circumstances.

I want to record my thanks to all the trustees, officers of the committee, volunteers, other helpers, and especially you the members for your interest and support. We all ensure that the charity known as the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks can meet its objectives of protecting and conserving these beautiful spaces, for the long-term enjoyment of generations to come.

Colin Muid

Chair

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks

THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

England & Wales - Charity number 1137203

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date		Period end date
From	1	January 2020	To 31 December 2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

White Lodge	
The Stockyard, Hampton Court Road	
Hampton	
Postcode	TW12 2EJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Colin Muid	Chair		
2	Adrian Heywood	Treasurer		
3	Pieter Morpurgo	President		
4	Annie Murray			
5	Rosemary MacColl			
6	Claire Ivison			
7	David Ivison			
8	Iris Hawkes			
9	Barry Purdon	Vice-chair		
10	Sue Robertson			
11	Fred Squire	Secretary	From 9/3/2020	
12	Jane Cliff		Resigned 9/3/2020	
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Jason Hughes	9 Claremont Road Teddington TW11 8DH

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg trust, association, company)</small>	Trust
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg appointed by, elected by)</small>	The Charity in general meeting shall elect Officers and the other Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Charity's objectives are for the benefit of the general public, to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the objects of improving the conditions of life of the public in particular the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Bushy and Home Park

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

To promote public enjoyment and understanding of the parks, The Friends have established and operate a Visitor Centre in Bushy Park and organise lectures and walks. We produce a newsletter and other relevant publications, together with providing a website <https://fbhp.org.uk/>. We raise funds for practical improvement projects in the Parks and work to protect and conserve the Parks' environment.

The trustees hereby confirm that as a body it had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Charity principal achievement during the year was to fund the start of restoration of the Woodland Gardens in Bushy Park, a sum of £5000. This enabled the clearance of Rhododendron Ponticum, an invasive species which had overtaken much of the native planting and had obscured original features.

Due to Covid restrictions during 2020 we were unable to operate the Visitor Centre during periods of lockdown. However, we rebuilt our website and consequently can now achieve online membership joining/renewal and provide online purchasing of Visitor Centre merchandise and public donations. This has meant our income levels to support projects in the parks has not suffered badly from the pandemic.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

FBHP adopts 2 years' running costs as the amount to hold in its Reserve Fund. Currently this is approximately £6,000pa

Details of any funds materially in deficit

No funds are in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Colin R. Muid

Full name(s)

Colin Muid

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

20 September 2021

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)
Income & expenditure year ended 31 December 2020

	31 December 2020		31 December 2019	
	£	£	£	£
General Fund Receipts				
General Subscriptions	5,570.50		5,416.36	
Gift Aid (50%)	1,009.95		1,047.36	
Summer Party - ticket sales	0.00		2,067.40	
Bank Interest	12.80		34.13	
		6,593.25		8,565.25
Payments from General Fund				
Summer Party	0.00		(1,829.72)	
Printing and Publicity	(1,362.07)		(2,306.21)	
Stationery, Stamps and Postage	(998.50)		(1,185.19)	
Insurance	(576.30)		(535.27)	
IT (hardware, software, licences)	(595.67)		(496.88)	
Membermojo	(250.00)		0.00	
Events, AGM and Walks and Talks	(501.42)		(1,286.69)	
Leaflets	(480.19)		0.00	
Stripe commission	(143.43)		0.00	
Float - Trustee/Volunteers	(400.00)		0.00	
Miscellaneous Items	(835.76)		(160.42)	
		(6,143.34)		(7,800.38)
Surplus of receipts from General fund over expenditure		449.91		764.87
Donations				
General Donations	3,118.92		1,562.77	
Other donations (incl buckets)	1,545.39			
Gift Aid (50%)	1,009.95		1,047.36	
		5,674.26		2,610.13
Ann Sayer Legacy		11,000.00		0.00
VC Appeal receipts				
Visitor Centre	0.00		9,567.92	
Visitor Centre	(504.00)		(15,444.02)	
		(504.00)		(5,876.10)
Merchandise				
Merchandise sales	8,915.89		8,283.21	
Merchandise purchases	(4,673.99)		(7,238.13)	
		4,241.90		1,045.08
New website		(4,265.00)		
Project payments: Woodlands gardens (TRP)		(5,000.00)		
Total excess of income over (expenditure) for year		11,597.07		(1,456.02)
Funds at start of year		31,949.63		33,405.65
Funds at end of year		43,546.70		31,949.63
Balances		£		£
Current		28,978.93		17,659.46
Business 1		0.40		0.40
Business 2		14,567.37		14,554.57
Total cash in hand		43,546.70		32,214.43
Sales of merchandise not yet credited to bank				251.19
Payments not yet debited - in respect of new website				(515.99)
		43,546.70		31,949.63
		0.00		0.00
Gross income		32,183.40		29,026.51
Gross expenditure		(20,586.33)		(30,482.53)
		11,597.07		(1,456.02)

Independent examiner's report

to the Trustees, Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (Reg. Charity 1137203)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which include the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the Treasurer's report.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. 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 examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Jason Hughes

9 Claremont Rd, Teddington, TW11 8DH

Date: 30 March 2021