



# THE FRIENDS OF CANNIZARO PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



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# INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

2024/25 has seen The Friends of Cannizaro Park come of age as a charity.

Thanks to the competence and commitment of experienced trustees and volunteers, we are tackling major renovation projects right across the park, from the Pond and Bog Garden to the redevelopment of the Aviary site, not forgetting a major re-design of the Sunken Garden. It continues the significant transformations we have accomplished in the past five years: something I see as “generational change” for Cannizaro Park.

Our focus is always on working in partnership with colleagues in Merton Council and with park visitors - and on ensuring projects are delivered well. This means taking our time where we need to ensure that complex initiatives are properly prepared and that volunteer work is sustainable. Without any paid administrative support, our trustee team work incredibly hard to deliver high quality, high scope projects.

I am deeply proud of the work each and every member of our team contributes, to make this wonderful Grade II\* listed park a beautiful and inspiring space for our local community - and indeed, for visitors from farther afield attracted by our major tree collection. As we approach our 80th birthday as a public park in 2029, we hope visitors will appreciate the new improvements planned for 2025/26 and welcome the chance to support small fundraising opportunities to facilitate these changes.

CATHERINE NELSON





# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1997, The Friends of Cannizaro Park ("FoCP") is a charity(\*) established both to conserve and improve the horticulture and historical structures of this Grade II\* listed Wimbledon park.

We have translated this aim into two practical objectives:

- Supporting park-owner Merton Council to maintain and renew the park landscape
- Engaging with park visitors to enhance their enjoyment and appreciation of the park.

\*CHARITY NUMBER 1160982





**3450** Gardening  
Volunteer Hours  
(or 431 Volunteer  
Days!), to maintain  
and renovate park  
landscape

**946** Instagram  
posts to inform  
followers of  
latest Cannizaro  
nature news and  
events

Won final approval  
from Environment  
Agency for  
£130,000 Pond  
and Bog Garden  
grant

**11** new specialist  
trees planted to  
continue  
Cannizaro's status  
as an arboreal  
park

# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Over **10,000** items  
collected by Litter  
Volunteers, ranging from  
drinks cans to dog poo,  
tennis balls and a GCSE  
chemistry test paper

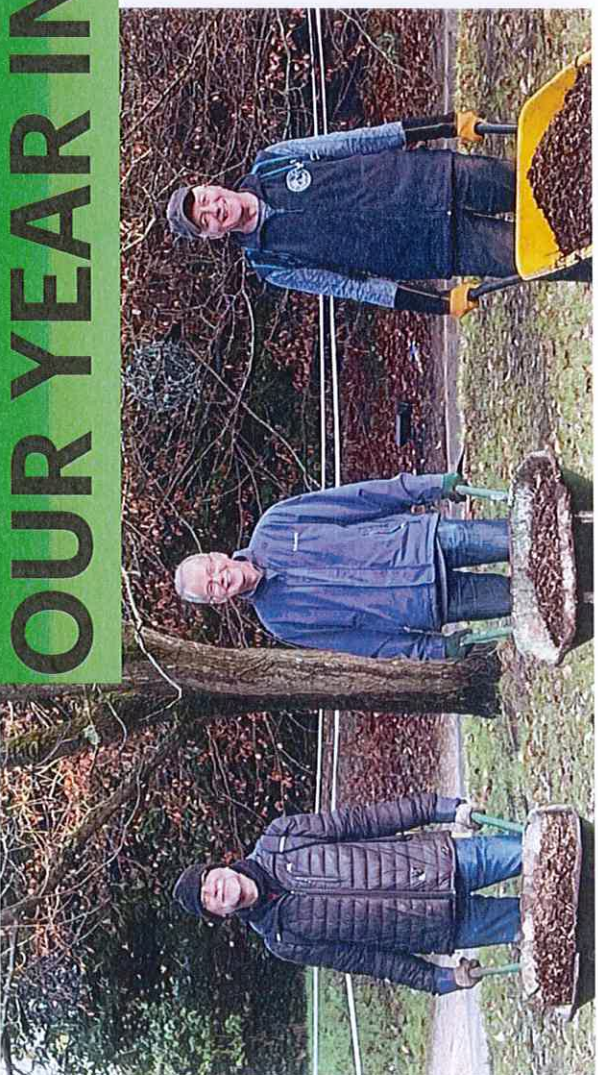
**24** Walks each week  
from our Dog  
Champion Team, to  
engage with park  
visitors on dog  
matters in the park

Capacity audience of **120**  
who loved Gardening  
Question Time expert  
Matthew Pottage's  
colourful and  
iconoclastic talk





# OUR YEAR IN PICTURES





# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN PARK LANDSCAPE 24/25

- Replacement of 200 metre failed Pond-to-Cascade drainage pipework (£30,000 CIL grant won 23/24), as part of long-term plan to reduce flooding
- Secured provision of smart new rear gates
- Developed detailed specification and final approved submission for £130,000 renovation of Pond and Bog Garden, supported by Environment Agency's Natural Flood Management Programme (implementation summer 2025)
- Renewed planting in all key feature beds, from Front Entrance to Rose Garden, Rhododendron Beds to Herb Garden and Hotel Bed

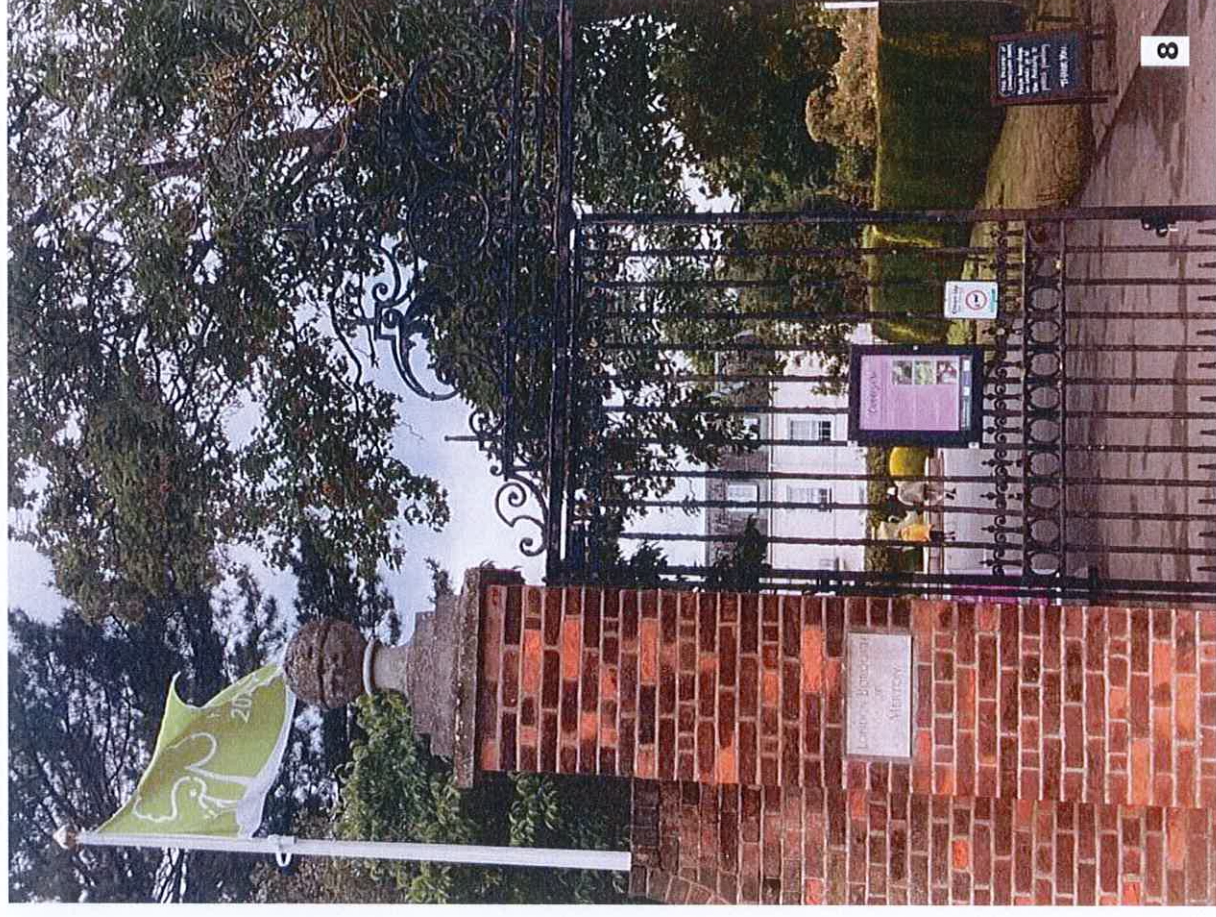




# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN PARK LANDSCAPE 24/25

## CONTINUED

- Agreed a partnership and brief with Landform UK, to create a sustainable planting design for the Sunken Garden (implementation in stages 2025-2028)
- Advanced re-development of the Aviary site, appointing architects Neighbourhood Studio and developing initial designs
- Contributed 3450 hours of varied park maintenance work through the year, through an active and able volunteer gardening team (equalling paid park staffing hours)
- Won second successive Green Flag award, demonstrating continued operation to high national standards of park management





## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN VISITOR ENGAGEMENT 24/25

- Maintained active communications programme of monthly e-newsletters and posters, Instagram feed (3126 followers, + 7% vs 23/24) and website
- Ran sold-out nature-focussed events, including 8 expert guided walks (trees, herbal medicine and forest bathing), sold-out speaker meeting with Royal Parks' Horticulture lead Matt Pottage, and Cannizaro Park-focussed walks with Wimbledon Common & Village Walk & Talk group
- Supported pro-social dog behaviours through instigation of Cannizaro Canine Code and active liaison with visitors by new Dog Champion Team





# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN VISITOR ENGAGEMENT 24/25

## CONTINUED

- Organised second successful year of community Art in the Aviary programme, with nature-inspired exhibits from local schools, artists and community organisations (\*)
- Increased information available on Cannizaro's outstanding tree collection, with more QR codes on trees and a new self-guided conifer tree walk

\* (KEVIN HERLIHY, WIMBLEDON ART STUDIOS; KINGS COLLEGE SCHOOL & PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS; ACANA CANNIZARO PARK STUDIOS, WORKSHOP 305)





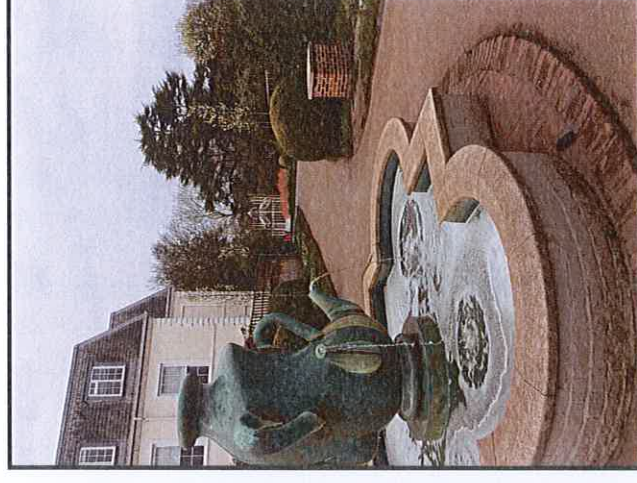
# OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



Cannizaro wins Assinda Cup for Best Novice Bloom at Camellia Competition, RHS Wisley



FoCP wins Environmental Volunteer Team 2024 in Merton Civic Pride Volunteer Awards

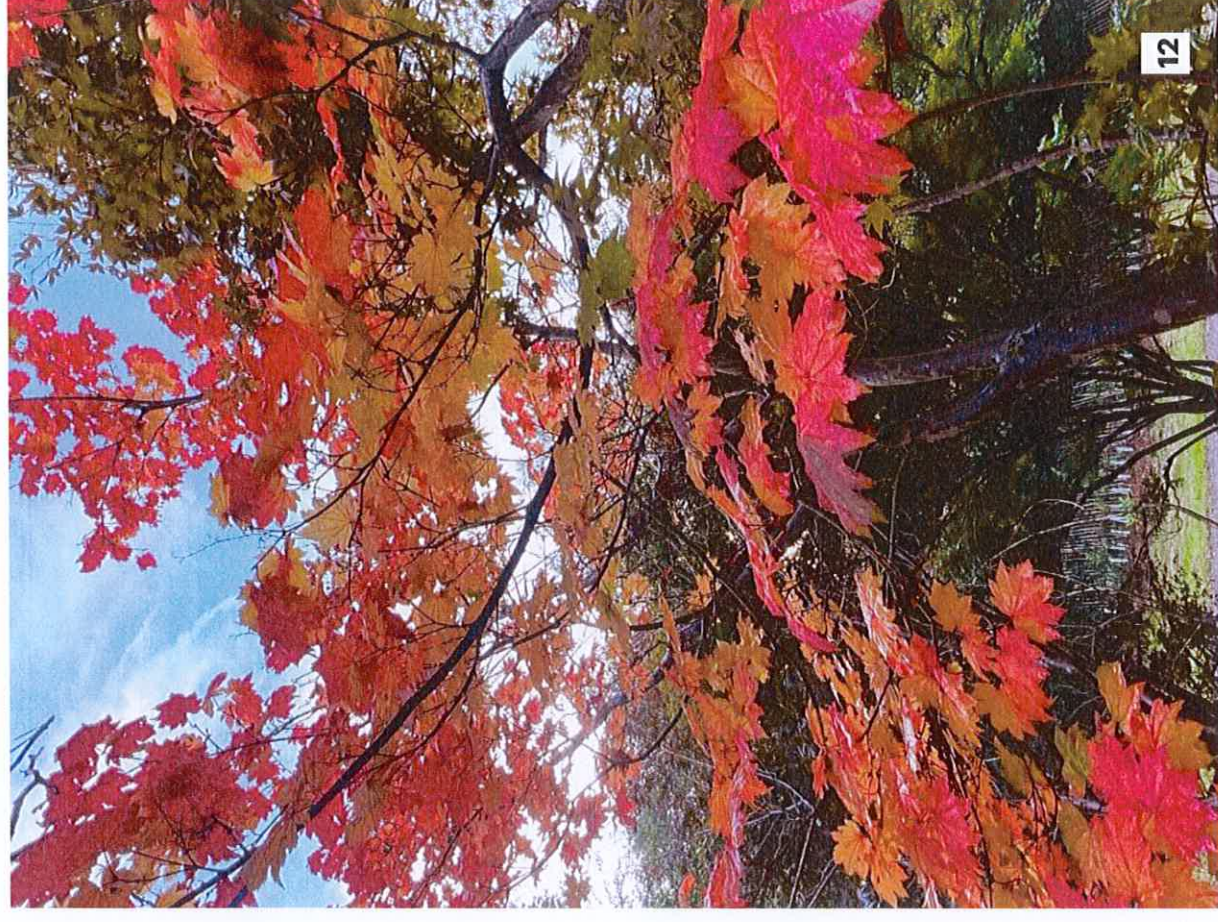


Donor makes substantial contribution to renovate Millennium Fountain



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- FoCP funds increased +30% vs 2023/24 to £51,126, after falling a similar % in the previous year
- These movements largely reflect the timing of expenditure on major projects, such as the delayed implementation of the Aviary site redevelopment
- Donations and grants received totalled £26,000, and our events programmes made a surplus of £4,000
- Over £6,000 was spent on planting and maintenance activities; £6,000 on the Pond Redevelopment Project and £8,000 accrued for the Fountain Renovation
- Trustees revised the reserves policy to a target sum of £15,000-£20,000 (ensuring adequate funds for developing major projects, and covering ongoing annual expenditure in case of a significant reduction in income) and agreed a plan to co-fund priority park works with Merton Council, to reduce prudently the current balance of funds within 2-3 years
- Detailed modelling of 2025-27 funding indicates planned future activity is feasible





# GOVERNANCE

## Trustees

- Chair: Catherine Nelson
- Treasurer: Simon Ingall
- Secretary: Katie Weig (acting as Secretary from January 2025 and co-opted as Trustee on 19 May 2025)
- Volunteers: Anne Peacock
- Horticulture: Jane Watkins
- Development: Anna Watkin
- Events: Liza Llewellyn
- Communications: Cathy Wiley
- Membership: Sam Pedder
- Legal: Caroline Newsholme
- Projects: Pit Rink (formerly Secretary until January 2025)



The purposes and administration of the FoCP, which is an unincorporated association, are regulated by its Constitution filed with the Charity Commission. The current version was adopted in 2021.

The FoCP is managed by trustees, with a minimum of three and a maximum of eleven. Trustees are appointed based on their interest in the FoCP's activities and their specific skills and ability to contribute. Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers and duties.

The trustees are required to manage the FoCP in accordance with its Constitution and to maintain appropriate books and records in order to comply with the Charities Act 2011.

They are responsible for safeguarding the FoCP's assets and therefore for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities. They are also responsible for the preparation of an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and accounting requirements.

The Friends of Cannizaro Park: % 35 High Street, Wimbledon, London SW19 5BY; [www.cannizaropark.com](http://www.cannizaropark.com)

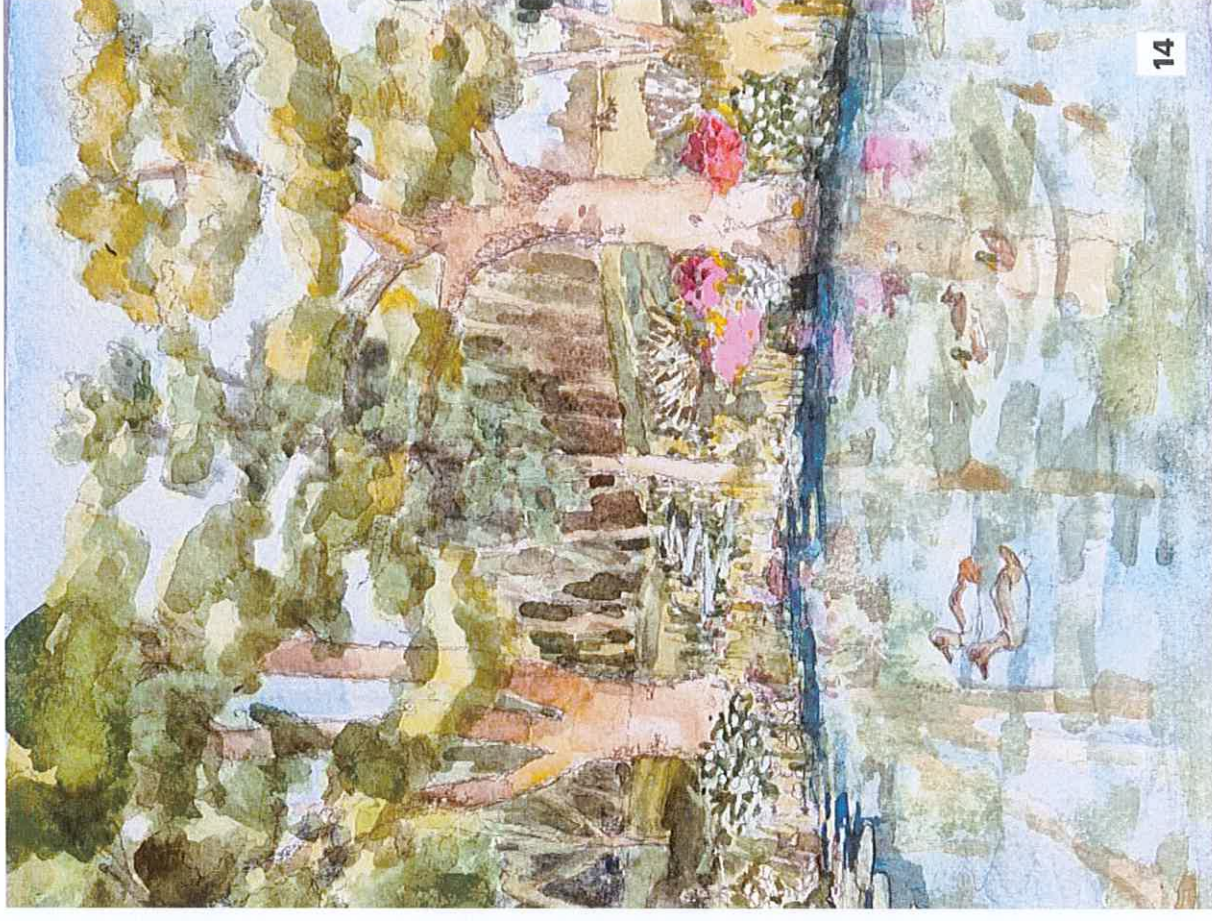


# KEY NEW PROJECTS

## 25/26

- Implementation of Pond and Bog Garden renovation\*, bringing natural flood management and biodiversity improvements
- Creation of detailed plans, including public information meeting, for re-development of Aviary site
- Overhauling of appearance and functioning of much-valued public toilet block

\* SUPPORTED BY GRANT FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME





# KEY NEW PROJECTS

## 25/26

CONTINUED

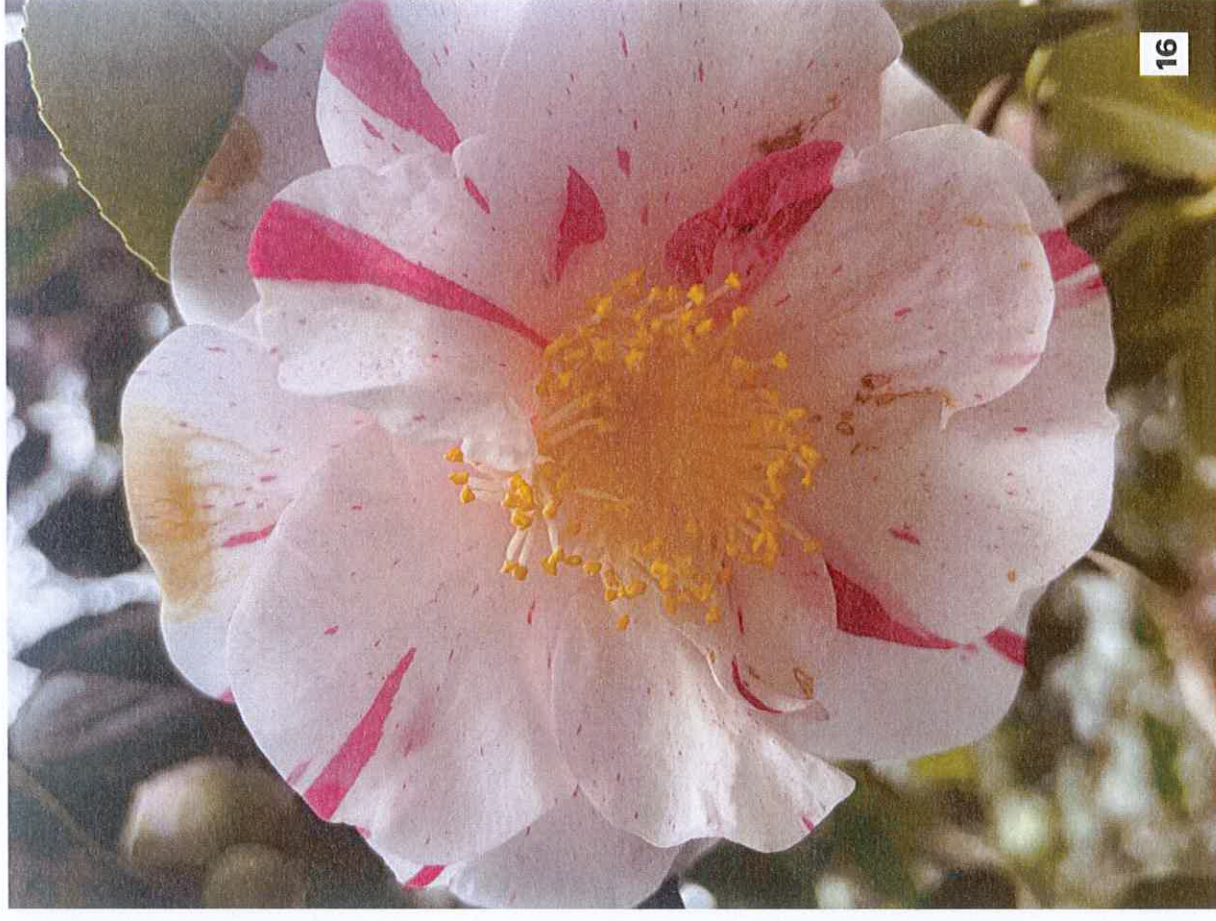
- Transformation of Front Entrance “portal”, including re-conditioning entrance gates, repairing paving and new park signage
- Initiation of planting work to create visually impactful and environmentally beneficial Sunken Garden area
- Renovation of the Millennium Fountain





# HUGE THANKS TO...

- Our 3 Park Partners: Hotel du Vin, for support with amenities and also Sunken Garden planting; Landform UK, for landscape design expertise; Robert Holmes & Company, for providing core funding for park renewal work
- Den Anderson, for organising the wonderful annual fundraising bridge event
- Katie Preston and Katherine Rowe of the Commonworks Gallery, for artistic assistance of many kinds
- Jonie Lordache of The Bright Pink Agency, for keeping our website up and running





# HUGE THANKS TO...

## CONTINUED

- Our incredible, enthusiastic and committed volunteers, who work in the gardening team, communications programme, and Dog Champion and park projects teams
- The Environment Agency Natural Flood Management Programme, for final approval of the £130,000 Pond Area redevelopment
- Workshop 305, Kings College School with partnership schools, Kevin Herlihy and ACAVA for creative art displays in the Aviary
- Merton Council, for awarding us £30,000 from the Civic Pride fund to replace damaged drainage pipes
- All of our Friends and donors, who support this generational change in Cannizaro Park.





# WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK!

- Email us at: [secretary@cannizaropark.com](mailto:secretary@cannizaropark.com)
- Instagram: [@cannizaro.park](https://www.instagram.com/cannizaro.park)
- Talk to us on Tuesday mornings in the park!



Approved by the trustees and signed on their  
behalf by:

*Catherine Nelson*

Catherine Nelson, Chair

19 May 2025



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

2024 £		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds (Note 5)	2025 Total £
	<b>Income</b>			
3,600.00	Subscriptions	3,795.00		3,795.00
14,705.16	Donations (including grants)	13,050.15	13,380.71	26,430.86
1,768.04	Gift Aid claims	2,077.52		2,077.52
3,488.46	Activities (Note 2)	6,117.74		6,117.74
769.30	Other	754.15		754.15
<b>24,330.96</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,794.56</b>	<b>13,380.71</b>	<b>39,175.27</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>			
(18,522.08)	Planting and maintenance (Note 3)	(6,135.45)		(6,135.45)
-	- Pond envelope drainage	(488.00)	(5,380.71)	(5,868.71)
-	- Fountain refurbishment		(8,000.00)	(8,000.00)
(14,220.00)	Drainage survey			-
-	- Aviary replacement	(1,231.40)		(1,231.40)
(816.66)	Activities (Note 2)	(2,287.16)		(2,287.16)
(2,437.47)	Communications and IT	(2,617.25)		(2,617.25)
(2,961.43)	Other	(1,142.33)		(1,142.33)
<b>(38,957.64)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(13,901.59)</b>	<b>(13,380.71)</b>	<b>(27,282.30)</b>
<b>(14,626.68)</b>	<b>Movement in funds</b>	<b>11,892.97</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,892.97</b>
53,859.91	Funds brought forward	39,233.23	-	39,233.23
<b>39,233.23</b>	<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>51,126.20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,126.20</b>

## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

2024 £		2025 £
	<b>Net current assets</b>	
2,878.94	Cash at bank - current account	2,770.24
19,895.84	- deposit account	35,142.46
20,488.11	- notice account	20,995.64
97.96	PayPal account	217.86
372.38	Debtors	-
(4,500.00)	Creditors (Note 4)	(8,000.00)
<b>39,233.23</b>		<b>51,126.20</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	
39,233.23	Unrestricted	51,126.20
-	Restricted	-
<b>39,233.23</b>		<b>51,126.20</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1 Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) under the Charities Act 2011 and therefore on an accruals basis, except for subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid claims which are recognised as income when received.

### 2 Results of Activities

2024		Walks	Bridge	Talk	2025 Total
£		£	£	£	£
3,488.46	Income	2,179.74	2,288.80	1,649.20	6,117.74
(816.66)	Expenditure	(1,065.49)	(119.80)	(1,101.87)	(2,287.16)
2,671.80	Net result	1,114.25	2,169.00	547.33	3,830.58

### 3 Planting and maintenance expenditure

Planting and maintenance for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 includes a credit of £3,000 to reverse the charge in the prior year for sunken garden bedding (no longer being billed by Merton Council). For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, it includes £6,432 for fencing and £3,427 for the hotel bed project.

### 4 Creditors

Creditors at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 is the amount due to be passed on to Merton Council towards refurbishment of the fountain.

### 5 Restricted funds

Restricted funds received during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 are in respect of a donation of £8,000 received towards the fountain refurbishment and £5,381 as the first stage of the grant for the pond envelope drainage project.

#### Approved by the trustees

19th May 2025



Catherine Nelson, Chair

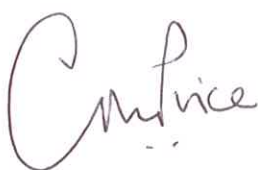


Simon Ingall, Treasurer

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF CANNIZARO PARK

I have examined the Financial Statements of The Friends of Cannizaro Park for the year ended 31st March 2025 and confirm that they have been correctly prepared and are in accordance with the books and records.

Signed



Colin Price

19th May 2025