

# FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS

England & Wales · Charity number 1162459

## Details

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**Other names** FSPG

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2015-06-30

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

## Contact

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**Address** 50 Kings Road  
London  
SW19 8QW

**Phone** 07973409579

**Email** [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.southparkgardens.org](http://www.southparkgardens.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1) TO PROMOTE SUPPORT AND ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS LOCATED IN WIMBLEDON, LONDON SW19 (THE PARK) AS A RECREATIONAL AREA (IN THE CONTEXT OF IT BEING A LISTED GARDEN IN A CONSERVATION AREA) TO BE USED AND ENJOYED BY THE COMMUNITY OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY OF LONDON AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. 2) TO DO ALL SUCH THINGS AS SHALL BE CONDUCIVE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ABOVE OBJECT INCLUDING: PROMOTING SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING IN THE A) CONTINUATION OF THE PARKS STATUS AS A GRADE II LISTED GARDEN; B) ENHANCEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF THE PARK BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON. 3) TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE PARK.

**Activities:** The maintenance, improvement and enhancement of South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London, SW19 as a recreational area to be used and enjoyed by the whole community.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Merton

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£22,992	£15,340	-	-
2023-12-31	£20,810	£12,309	-	-
2022-12-31	£17,247	£10,871	-	-
2021-12-31	£8,895	£9,048	-	-
2020-12-31	£4,350	£9,152	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Nick Evans</b>	Chair	2023-10-10
Caroline Susan Threadgold		2022-09-27
HELEN ROGERS LLB HONS		2015-06-12
Helen Margaret Day		2016-11-17
Jamie Hay		2024-09-12
SYLVIA NAYIRI LUCAS		2015-06-12

**FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162459

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# Accounts

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## **The Friends of South Park Gardens**

Annual Report and Accounts

*1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024*

## **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

### **Address**

c/o The Garden Pavilion, South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PN.

### **Trustees**

Nicholas Evans (Chair from 12th Sept 2024)

Helen Day (Chair to 12th Sept 2024)

Sylvia Lucas (Secretary)

Caroline Threadgold

Helen Rogers

Tony Medawar

Jamie Hay (appointed on 12th Sept 2024)

Sarah Willis (resigned on 12th Sept 2024)

Susan Hook (resigned on 12th Sept 2024)

Katie Gibson (resigned on 12th Sept 2024)

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc, Chichester Branch, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, COIF Charity Funds, 80 Cheapside, London EC4V 6DZ

## **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

The Friends of South Park Gardens is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission under number 1162459. The CIO is a direct replacement of the unincorporated charity with the same name. The CIO was entered on the charities register of The Charity Commission on 26th June 2015.

#### **Charitable objects**

The object of the charity is, in summary, to promote, support and assist in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of South Park Gardens in Wimbledon, London, SW19, as a recreational area to be used and enjoyed by the whole community, including identifying and implementing security measures.

#### **Trustees and staff**

The trustees are all local residents and were elected at the annual general meeting. All trustees are volunteers and there are no paid employees of the Friends of South Park Gardens.

#### **Background**

The Friends began in 2002 as a campaigning body with the purpose of restoring the Gardens to their original Victorian pleasure garden plan. In 2009, this was achieved through a combination of community activity and funding, a grant obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and council improvements and investment. In 2014 planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the dilapidated gardeners' compound and toilets. The building was funded using remaining HLF Funds and Council funding and was completed in 2015. This building is now a vibrant and essential part of the Gardens. The Pavilion building provides a community resource, disabled lavatory, and improved Gardeners Compound and work area. In addition, a kiosk serving refreshments opened under a lease arrangement with Merton Council. The kiosk, "Bliss in the Park" is now leased by the Council and is a welcome addition to the Gardens enjoyed by many.

#### **Merton Council**

The trustees have regular meetings and are in regular communication with both Merton Council's Head of Parks Services and the Council contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Gardens - *idverde*. The trustees have built up a good relationship with Merton's Green Spaces Manager, Andrew Kauffman.

The *idverde* gardening team have worked in the Gardens for many years and our appreciation of their work is recorded here.

#### **ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

##### *The Gardens*

South Park Gardens was again awarded the prestigious international Green Flag Award again in 2024. This is an international benchmark standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the UK and around the world.

The knee rails were installed for the new beds (at the entrances) and were painted. The Friends also arranged for the painting of the other knee rails in the park.

Repairs to the paths remain an important requirement and we continued to press Merton Council to action remedial repairs as necessary and to arrange further upgrades to the path surfaces.

### *Gardening Club*

The Friends continue to have an active Gardening Club who both plan and plant as well as assisting with maintenance of the flower beds in the Gardens. They use the nursery area in the raised beds behind the Garden Pavilion for the cultivation and growing of plants for replenishing stock in the Gardens (and for the popular plant sales).

The Gardening Club continued to meet every Sunday morning, maintaining the Heritage Lottery Beds and weeding many of the borders. The Gardening Club volunteers work tirelessly come rain and shine to keep all the beds and borders in good shape and have created new winter borders and planting. Given the changes in weather patterns this team regularly reviews our planting plans to ensure that colour and interest in all the beds and borders continues through the seasons.

The Club also worked up shrubbery schemes, prepared the beds and planted the new beds which have really improved the entrances to the park.

The trustees continue to fund a small budget for the Gardening Club volunteers to obtain refreshments from the kiosk during their time on Sundays.

The volunteers meet regularly to develop seasonal planting plans to reflect the changes in soil and climate to ensure plantings are more drought resistant and require less watering during the summer months. The new plantings have produced beautiful displays throughout the year.

We held two very successful plant sales during the year. Many of the Club volunteers grew plants from seed at home and cuttings were taken from plants in the Gardens and those raised in the nursery beds were also available for sale. All proceeds were reinvested in the Gardens.

The trustees are again very grateful to the Gardening Club for their tireless efforts, and for the contribution of all volunteers for the time they have given during the year. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 1200 hours over the course of the year.

### *Garden Pavilion*

Our community space, the Garden Pavilion, is regularly used for both community and commercial activities. Receipts from lettings are put towards maintenance and running costs including cleaning and replacement of furniture and equipment.

Bookings for the Garden Pavilion continue to increase. It is a popular location used for a broad range of community style activities including art and crafts, chess, mahjong, baking, folk music, yoga and dance classes. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity remains in the region of 400 hours

The trustees would like to record again our gratitude to our volunteer room manager who has looked after or supported the considerable administration needed for the Garden Pavilion for many years.

Following discussions with Merton Council regarding the security, heating, ventilation and safe use of the Garden Pavilion it was agreed that air conditioning would be installed and that installation was completed in December 2024.

### *Membership*

Our membership system is fully automated using a recommended third-party provider for small membership organisations – MemberMojo. This has resulted in a simplified system for members and a considerable workload taken away from our membership secretary volunteer. The membership fee remains at £10 per household and £5 per individual member and represents a small investment in a hugely valued local community resource. The previous introduction of a donation button during the renewal process has again been helpful in generating funds. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 200 hours

### *Events*

Our exciting events programme continued in 2024.

The popular Easter Egg Hunt in March 2024 blessed with sunshine, was well attended and tickets for the event sold out. The large team of volunteers who helped on the day set out the many “sticks” the children are tasked with collecting, decorated the Park and then fulfilled roles such as the Easter Bunny, taking payments, organising and handing out prizes and running the raffle. Our thanks also to the volunteers who prepared the 300 or so prize bags of chocolate eggs.

Our Summer Celebration was held in June 2024. The marvellous Melodians Steel Orchestra performed again for the community during the afternoon, the plant stall, bar and cake stall were a sell out and appetites were sated by food provided by Bliss in the Park.

We were pleased to continue to host our Over-60s Cream Teas. These are for individuals from the community largely based in residential and care homes. They were well attended and gave the attendees a chance to meet others and hear more about South Park Gardens from the trustees.

The income/expenditure from our events is listed in our Accounts, attached to this report.

### *Benches*

In the Autumn of 2021, the programme of refurbishment of the benches in the Gardens commenced. In total 35 benches were refurbished. Enquiries for dedication of benches continued in 2024 and these dedications are a valuable source of fundraising income for the Friends. At the end of 2024 all benches had been dedicated.

The Friends also arranged for all the benches to be cleaned and re-oiled during the year.

### *Duke of Edinburgh Awards*

During the year the Friends assisted a number of local residents with regular volunteering opportunities in South Park Gardens as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award programme. Activities undertaken include litter picking, gardening and event support.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The trustees continued to meet during 2024. The trustees' communication with the membership has been maintained with PDF copies of newsletters sent by email. There have also been regular updates on the Friends' social media pages.

The Gardens are an invaluable community resource, and the level of use continues to pose some issues regarding littering and multiple parties at the weekends - particularly during fine weather and over the summer. The Friends regularly remind all park users to be mindful of each other whilst using the Gardens and to take rubbish home.

Recurring administration expenses included insurance, Mailchimp, the domain name and ICO registration. These sums were met from reserves. Expenditure by the Gardening Club was a planned use of reserves and was less than the amount contained in the reserves policy.

Debt management for the Garden Pavilion continues to be successful. This has been achieved through the continued use of the automated payment and booking system for all hirers. The debtors list is currently zero.

### *2024 Full Year Accounts*

The accounts are attached to this Trustee Annual Report.

### *Sponsorship*

We were delighted that Ellison continued their valuable sponsorship in 2024. They have been involved with South Park Gardens for many years now. This sponsorship helps us fund elements of our events programme.

## **TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS**

Friends of South Park Gardens is a charity and is run and managed entirely by volunteers. All volunteers give their time and expertise which enables us to do what we do safely and to the best of our ability and resources.

The trustees would like to record their appreciation for all those who give their time to Friends of South Park Gardens. The chair would also like to record his thanks to both (i) his predecessor Helen Day for her leadership and considerable work in her near seven year tenure as chair (ii) and to all trustees for their contribution and commitment to the running of the Friends.

## **CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

**APPROVED** by the trustees and signed on their behalf by Nicholas Evans.



Date: 2nd May 2025

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS****STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income from subscriptions/donations		1,810	1,982
Gross income from events		4,507	3,787
Sponsorship		1,000	1,000
Garden Room Rent and Takings		9,505	8,122
Bench Plaque donations		1,678	2,307
Interest		3,839	3,164
Sundry- plant sales		654	448
		<u>22,992</u>	<u>20,810</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Expenses of events	2	2,627	2,404
Garden room outgoings		1,839	1,249
Insurance		202	274
Website and newsletter		678	209
Sundry- training		-	500
General Administrative Overheads		1,194	962
Plants purchased and new bedding plants		7,990	6,711
Furniture		810	-
		<u>15,340</u>	<u>12,309</u>
<b>SURPLUS</b>			
		<u>7,652</u>	<u>8,501</u>
Balance brought forward		93,478	84,977
Net increase in funds		9,592	8,501
Railings repainting		-5,040	-
Balance carried forward		<u>96,090</u>	<u>93,478</u>

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at banks - current account	16,921	16,258
- deposit account	78,775	74,936
-paypal account	395	2,204
Trade debtors	-	80
Total assets	<u>96,090</u>	<u>93,478</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	96,090	93,478

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS****NOTES****I. Basis of preparation**



**FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162459

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# Accounts

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# **The Friends of South Park Gardens**

Annual Report and Accounts  
*1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023*

## **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

### **Address**

c/o The Garden Pavilion, South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PN

### **Trustees**

Helen Day (Chair)

Sylvia Lucas (Secretary)

Susan Hook

Carra Kane (resigned 10 October 2023)

Peter Kenning (resigned 10 October 2023)

Helen Rogers

Sarah Willis

Caroline Threadgold

Katie Gibson

Tony Medawar (appointed 10 October 2023)

Nicholas Evans (appointed 10 October 2023)

### **Treasurer**

Lynn Dyson

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
Chichester Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
COIF Charity Funds  
80 Cheapside  
London  
EC4V 6DZ

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

# **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Introduction**

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### **Charitable Objects**

The object of the charity is, in summary, to promote, support and assist in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of South Park Gardens in Wimbledon, London, SW19, as a recreational area to be used and enjoyed by the whole community, including identifying and implementing security measures.

### **Trustees and staff**

The first trustees were all local residents and were elected at the annual general meeting. All trustees are volunteers and there are no paid employees of the Friends of South Park Gardens.

### **Background**

The Friends began in 2002 as a campaigning body with the purpose of restoring the Gardens to their original Victorian pleasure garden plan. In 2009, this was achieved through a combination of community activity and funding, a grant obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and council improvements and investment. In 2014 planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the dilapidated gardeners' compound and toilets. The building was funded using remaining HLF Funds and Council funding and was completed in 2015. This building is now a vibrant and essential part of the Gardens. The Pavilion building provides a community resource, disabled lavatory, and improved Gardeners Compound and work area. In addition a kiosk serving refreshments opened under a lease arrangement with Merton Council. The kiosk is now leased by the Council and is a welcome addition to the Gardens enjoyed by many.

### **Merton Council**

The trustees have regular meetings and are in regular communication with both Merton Council's head of Parks Services and the Council contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Gardens - *idverde*. The *idverde* gardening team have worked in the Gardens for many years and our appreciation of their work is recorded here.

South Park Gardens was awarded the prestigious international Green Flag Award again in 2023.

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2023**

### *Gardening Club*

The Friends has an active gardening club who assist with maintenance of the flower beds in the Gardens and who have established a nursery area in the raised beds behind the Garden Pavilion. This area is used for the cultivation and growing of plants for replenishing stock in the Gardens.

The Gardening Club continued to meet every Sunday morning, maintained the Heritage Lottery Beds, created, planted thousands of bulbs, built winter borders along the Kings Road edge of the Gardens and attracted regular new volunteers. The trustees funded a small budget for the Gardening Club volunteers to obtain refreshments from the kiosk during their time on Sundays.

The volunteers meet regularly to develop seasonal planting plans to reflect the changes in soil and climate to ensure plantings are more drought resistant and require less watering during the summer months. The new plantings have produced beautiful displays throughout the year.

We held plant sales in May and June 2023. Many of the club volunteers grew plants from seed at home and cuttings were taken from plants in the Gardens and those raised in the nursery beds were available for sale. All proceeds were reinvested in the Gardens.

The trustees are very grateful to the gardening club for their tireless efforts come rain or shine, and for the contribution of all volunteers for the time they have given to South Park Gardens during the year. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 1100 hours over the course of the year.

### *Garden Pavilion*

Our community space, the Garden Pavilion, is regularly used for both community and commercial activities. Receipts from lettings are put towards maintenance and running costs including cleaning and replacement of furniture and equipment.

Bookings for the Garden Pavilion continue to increase. It is a popular location used for a broad range of community style activities including art and crafts, chess, mahjong, baking, folk music, yoga, dance classes. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 400 hours

The Trustees would like to record our gratitude to our volunteer room manager who has looked after or supported the considerable administration needed for the Garden Pavilion for a number of years.

## *Membership*

Our membership system is now fully automated using a recommended third-party provider for small membership organisations – MemberMojo. This has resulted in a simplified system for members and a considerable workload taken away from our membership secretary volunteer. The membership fee is set at £10 per household and £5 per individual member and represents a small investment in a hugely valued local community resource. The introduction of a donation button during the renewal process has been helpful in generating funds. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 200 hours

## *Events*

Our events programme continued in 2023.

The popular Easter Egg Hunt in April 2023 was well attended and tickets for the event sold out. A team of volunteers who helped on the day fulfilled roles such as the Easter Bunny, taking payments, organising and handing out prizes and running the raffle.

Our Summer Celebration was held in June 2023. The Melodians Steel Orchestra performed again for the community during the afternoon, the plant stall, bar and cake stall were a sell out and appetites were sated by food provided by Bliss in the Park.

We were pleased to hold two of our Over-60s Cream Teas. These are for individuals from the community largely based in residential and care homes. They were well attended and gave the attendees a chance to meet others and hear more about South Park Gardens from the trustees.

The income/expenditure from our events is listed in our Accounts, attached to this report.

## *Benches*

In the Autumn of 2021, the programme of refurbishment of the benches in the Gardens commenced. In total 35 benches were refurbished. Enquiries for dedication of benches continued to grow in 2023 and these dedications are a valuable source of fundraising income for the Friends. At the end of 2023 seven benches remained for dedication

## *Duke of Edinburgh Awards*

During the year the friends resumed and assisted a number of local residents with regular volunteering opportunities in South Park Gardens as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award programme. Activities undertaken include litter picking, gardening and event support.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The trustees continued to meet during 2023. The Trustees' communication with the membership has been maintained with PDF copies of newsletters sent by email. There have also been regular updates on the Friends' social media pages.

The Park is an invaluable community resource, but the level of use has posed some issues regarding littering and multiple parties at the weekend. The Friends regularly remind all park users to be mindful of each other whilst using the Gardens and also to take rubbish home.

Recurring administration expenses included insurance, Mailchimp, the domain name and ICO registration. These sums were met from reserves. Expenditure by the Gardening Club was planned use of reserves and was less than the amount contained in the reserves policy.

Debt management for the Garden Pavilion has improved considerably during the year. This has been achieved through the introduction of an automated payment and booking system for all hirers. The debtors list and length of credit is now minimal.

A small amount of income was written off by trustees as the hirer had moved from the area and ceased the business .

### *2023 Full Year Accounts*

The Accounts are attached to this Trustee Report.

### *Sponsorship*

We were delighted that Ellison continued their valuable sponsorship in 2023. They have been involved with South Park Gardens for many years now. This sponsorship helps us fund elements of our events programme.

## **TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS**

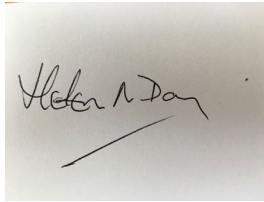
Friends of South Park Gardens is a charity and is run and managed entirely by volunteers. All volunteers give their time and expertise which enables us to do what we do safely and to the best of our ability and resources.

The trustees would like to record their appreciation for all those who give their time to Friends of South Park Gardens. The Chair would also like to record her thanks to all trustees for their contribution and commitment to the running of the Friends.

## **CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

APPROVED by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Helen Day

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored surface. The signature reads "Helen Day" in a cursive script, with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Date 12th September 2024

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK**  
**GARDENS**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income from subscriptions/donations	2	1,982	4,964
Gross income from events		3,787	3,336
Sponsorship		1,000	1,000
Garden Room Rent and Takings		8,122	5,010
Bench Plaque donations		2,307	1,958
Interest	3	3,164	693
Sundry- plant sales		448	286
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		20,810	17,247
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Expenses of events	4	2,404	1,762
Garden room outgoings		1,249	648
Insurance		274	371
Website and newsletter		209	892
Sundry- training		500	134
General Administrative Overheads		962	1,221
Plants purchased and wild garden		6,711	3,841
Defibrillator		-	2,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		12,309	10,871
<b>SURPLUS</b>			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		8,501	6,376
Balance brought forward		84,977	91,784
Net increase in funds		8,501	6,376
Bench Renovation Project		-	(13,183)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward		93,478	84,977

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK**  
**GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at banks - current account	16,258	11,252
- deposit account	74,936	71,772
-paypal account	2,204	1,671
Trade debtors	80	282
Total assets	<u>93,478</u>	<u>84,977</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	93,478	84,977

## THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS

### NOTES

#### 1. Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis of accounting as permitted by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commission for smaller charities. Thus income includes amounts reimbursed by the London Borough of Merton relating to previous years and expenses include items where the relevant income has been recognised in earlier years.

#### 2. Income from subscriptions/donations

The income from subscriptions for 2022 also includes subscriptions from 2021

#### 3. Interest

Interest represents higher interest rates earned on the CCLA deposit account

#### 4. Income and expenditure of events

	2023			2022		
	Sponsorship & Income	Expenses	Profit	Sponsorship & Income	Expenses	Profit
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Easter Egg Hunt	1,709	(619)	1,090	1,620	(401)	1,219
Summer Picnic	3,078	(1,735)	1,343	2,716	(1,300)	1,416
Over 60's cream tea	-	(50)	(50)	-	(61)	(61)
	<b>4,787</b>	<b>(2,404)</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>(1,742)</b>	<b>2,574</b>

**FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162459

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# Accounts

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# **The Friends of South Park Gardens**

Annual Report and Accounts  
*1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022*

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### **Address**

c/o The Garden Pavilion, South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PN

### **Trustees**

Helen Day (Chair)  
Sylvia Lucas (Secretary)  
Susan Hook  
Carra Kane  
Peter Kenning  
Helen Rogers  
Sarah Willis  
Helen Buckley (resigned 27th September 2022)  
Christopher Magee (resigned 27th September 2022)  
Caroline Threadgold (appointed 27th September 2022)  
Katie Gibson (appointed 27th September 2022)

### **Treasurer**

Lynn Dyson

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
Chichester Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
COIF Charity Funds  
80 Cheapside  
London  
EC4V 6DZ

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

# **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

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### **Trustees and staff**

The first trustees were all local residents and were elected at the annual general meeting. All trustees are volunteers and there are no paid employees of the Friends of South Park Gardens.

### **Background**

The Friends began in 2002 as a campaigning body with the purpose of restoring the Gardens to their original Victorian pleasure garden plan. In 2009, this was achieved through a combination of community activity and funding, a grant obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and council improvements and investment. In 2014 planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the dilapidated gardeners' compound and toilets. The building was funded using remaining HLF Funds and Council funding and was completed in 2015. This building is now a vibrant and essential part of the Gardens. The Pavilion building provides a community resource, disabled lavatory, and improved Gardeners Compound and work area. In addition a kiosk serving refreshments opened under a lease arrangement with Merton Council. The kiosk is now leased by the Council and is a welcome addition to the Gardens enjoyed by many.

### **Merton Council**

The trustees have regular meetings and are in regular communication with both Merton Council's head of green spaces and the Council contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Gardens - idverde. The idverde gardening team have worked in the Gardens for many years and our appreciation of their work is recorded here.

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2022**

### *20th Anniversary of The Friends of South Park Gardens*

The Friends celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2022. A Summer celebration marking the occasion took place in June 2022.

### *Gardening Club*

The Friends has an active gardening club who assist with maintenance of the flower beds in the Gardens and who have established a nursery area in the raised beds behind the Garden Pavilion. This area is used for the cultivation and growing of plants for replenishing stock in the Gardens.

The Gardening Club continued to meet every Sunday morning, maintained the Heritage Lottery Beds, created, planted thousands of bulbs, built winter borders along the Kings Road edge of the Gardens and attracted regular new volunteers. The trustees funded a small budget for the Gardening Club volunteers to obtain refreshments from the kiosk during their time on Sundays.

The volunteers meet regularly to develop seasonal planting plans to reflect the changes in soil and climate to ensure plantings are more drought resistant and require less watering during the summer months. The new plantings have produced beautiful displays throughout the year.

We held plant sales in May and June 2022. Many of the club volunteers grew plants from seed at home and cuttings were taken from plants in the Gardens and those raised in the nursery beds were available for sale. All proceeds were reinvested in the Gardens.

The trustees are very grateful to the gardening club for their tireless efforts come rain or shine, and for the contribution of all volunteers for the time they have given to South Park Gardens during the year. Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 1100 hours over the course of the year.

### *Garden Pavilion*

Our community space, the Garden Pavilion, is regularly used for both community and commercial activities. Receipts from lettings are put towards maintenance and running costs including cleaning and replacement of furniture and equipment.

Bookings for the Garden Pavilion continue to increase and recover from the closure during the Covid pandemic. It is a popular location used for a broad range of community style activities including art and crafts, chess, mahjong, baking, folk music, yoga, dance classes. Since September 2022 the Pavilion has hosted a programme of activities for Ukrainian women resettling in the UK. Our partnership with Home Instead Care in Wimbledon for regular Monday lunchtime events continued during 2022.

Friends of South Park Gardens Charity registration number 1162459

Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 400 hours

The Trustees would like to record our gratitude to our volunteer room manager who stepped down at the end of 2022 and has looked after the considerable administration needed for the Garden Pavilion for a number of years.

### *Membership*

Our membership system is now fully automated using a recommended third-party provider for small membership organisations – MemberMojo. This has resulted in a simplified system for members and a considerable workload taken away from our membership secretary volunteer. The membership fee is set at £10 per household and £5 per individual member and represents a small investment in a hugely valued local community resource. The introduction of a donation button during the renewal process has been helpful in generating funds. A total of £620 our income was generated through this alone. The automation of the membership renewal process enabled the Friends to cease the SurveyMonkey subscription in 2022.

Whilst volunteer hours are not recorded, the number of volunteer hours for this activity is in the region of 200 hours

### *Events*

We were thrilled to be able to resume face to face fundraising events in 2022. The popular Easter Egg Hunt in April 2022 was well attended and tickets for the event sold out. A team of volunteers who helped on the day fulfilled roles such as the Easter Bunny, taking payments, organising and handing out prizes and running the raffle.

Our Summer Celebration, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Friends, was held in June 2022. The Melodians Steel Orchestra performed again for the community during the afternoon, the pant stall, bar and cake stall were a sell out and appetites were sated by food provided by Bliss in the Park. A display of the work of the Friends with historic photographs and commentary about the Gardens from their origins as a Victorian Pleasure Garden to contemporary times provided our visitors with information about why we are here.

We were pleased to hold two of our Over-60s Cream Teas. These are for individuals from the community largely based in residential and care homes. They were well attended and gave the attendees a chance to meet others and hear more about South Park Gardens from the trustees.

The income/expenditure from our events is listed in our Accounts, attached to this report.

### *Defibrillator*

In 2022, a defibrillator was installed in South Park Gardens. The trustees had looked to fund this equipment prior to the pandemic. The defibrillator was provided by the charity, Defibrillators in Public Places (DIPPS). The trustees authorised a payment to DIPPS to enable other public places to benefit from receiving this life-saving equipment free of charge. It is installed on the right hand flank of the Garden Pavilion and signage is displayed. The defibrillator has clear instructions which enable any member of the public or the emergency services to instantly access this equipment.

### *Benches*

In the Autumn of 2021, the programme of refurbishment of the benches in the Gardens commenced. In total 35 benches have been refurbished. This expenditure has been planned for over the past couple of years and was funded from our reserves.

Enquiries for dedication of benches continue to grow and are a valuable source of fundraising income for the Friends.

### *Duke of Edinburgh Awards*

During the year the friends resumed and assisted a number of local residents with regular volunteering opportunities in South Park Gardens as part of their DofE award programme. Activities undertaken include litter picking, gardening and event support.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The trustees continued to meet during 2022. The Trustees' communication with the membership has been maintained with PDF copies of newsletters sent by email. There have also been regular updates on the Friends' social media pages.

The Park is an invaluable community resource, but the level of use has posed some issues regarding littering and multiple parties at the weekend. The Friends regularly remind all park users to be mindful of each other whilst using the Gardens and also to take rubbish home.

Recurring administration expenses included insurance, Mailchimp, Zoom, Survey Monkey, the domain name and ICO registration. These sums were met from reserves. Expenditure by the Gardening Club was planned use of reserves and was less than the amount contained in the reserves policy.

Bliss in the Park has been operating the kiosk since August 2018. This has been a welcome addition to the Gardens and Christelle St Mart has been a valuable member of the community. Her team has been very helpful in helping the hirers of the Garden Pavilion. Joint events with Bliss in the Park will be planned in the future.

## 2022 Full Year Accounts

The Accounts are attached to this Trustee Report.

### Sponsorship

We were delighted that Ellison continued their valuable sponsorship in 2022. They have been involved with South Park Gardens for many years now. This sponsorship helps us fund elements of our events programme.

### TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Friends of South Park Gardens is a charity and is run and managed entirely by volunteers. All volunteers give their time and expertise which enables us to do what we do safely and to the best of our ability and resource.

The trustees would like to record their appreciation for all those who give their time to Friends of South Park Gardens. The Chair would also like to record her thanks to all trustees for their contribution and commitment to the running of the Friends.

### TONY DAVIES

The trustees would like to pay tribute to Tony Davies who died during 2022. He was a devoted visitor to South Park Gardens, and due to his expertise and passion, he provided guidance, support and photographs for our information leaflet about the Trees and Birds of South Park Gardens. We are grateful to his family and friends for raising funds, used to dedicate a bench and to produce an update of these leaflets in recognition of Tony's work.

### CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

APPROVED by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by *HELEN DAY (Chair)*

*Helen Day*

Date

*10<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK**  
**GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income from subscriptions/donations		4,964	5,631
Gross income from events		3,336	-
Sponsorship		1,000	-
Garden Room Rent and Takings		5,010	3,061
Bench Plaque donations		1,958	-
Interest		693	9
Sundry- plant sales		286	194
		<u>17,247</u>	<u>8,895</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Expenses of events	2	1,762	47
Garden room outgoing & bad debts		648	351
Insurance		371	371
Website and newsletter		892	1,557

Sundry	134	244
General Administrative Overheads	1,221	676
Plants purchased and wild garden Defibrillator	3,841 2,000	5,802 -
	<u>10,871</u>	<u>9,048</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<u>6,376</u>	<u>(153)</u>
Balance brought forward	91,784	91,937
Net decrease in funds Bench Renovation Project	6,376 (13,183)	(153) -
Balance carried forward	<u>84,977</u>	<u>91,784</u>

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK  
GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	2022	20201
	£	£
Cash at banks - current account	11,252	20,688
- deposit account	71,772	71,096
-paypal account	1,671	-
Trade debtors/(creditors)	282	-

Total assets

84,977	91,784
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Represented by:

Unrestricted funds

84,977	91,784
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Approved 18th October 2023

Helen n Don

HELEN DAY

CHAIR

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

**NOTES**

**1. Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis of accounting as permitted by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commission for smaller charities. Thus income includes amounts reimbursed by the London Borough of Merton relating to previous years and expenses include items where the relevant income has been recognised in earlier years.

**2. Income and expenditure of events**

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**  
**NOTES**

**2. Income and expenditure of events**

	2022			20201		
	Income £	Expenses £	Profit £	Income £	Expenses £	Profit £
Easter Egg Hunt	1,320	(401)	919	-	47	(47)
Picnic in the Park	2,016	(1,300)	716	-	-	-
Over 60's cream tea	-	(61)	(61)	-	-	-
	<b>3,336</b>	<b>(1,762)</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>(47)</b>

**FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162459

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# Accounts

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# **The Friends of South Park Gardens**

Annual Report and Accounts  
*1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021*



## **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

### **Address**

c/o The Garden Pavilion, South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PN

### **Trustees**

Helen Day (Chair)  
Sylvia Lucas (Secretary)  
Susan Hook  
Carra Kane  
Peter Kenning  
Christopher Magee  
Helen Rogers  
Sarah Willis  
Helen Buckley

### **Treasurer**

Lynn Dyson

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
Chichester Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
COIF Charity Funds  
80 Cheapside  
London  
EC4V 6DZ

# **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Introduction**

The Friends of South Park Gardens is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission under number 1162459. The CIO is a direct replacement of the unincorporated charity with the same name. The CIO was entered on the Charities register of the Charities Commission on the 26 June 2015. The object of the charity is, in summary, to promote, support and assist in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of South Park Gardens in Wimbledon, London, SW19, as a recreational area to be used and enjoyed by the whole community, including identifying and implementing security measures. The first trustees were all local residents and were elected at the annual general meeting. All Trustees are volunteers and there are no paid employees of the Friends of South Park Gardens.

### **Development**

The Friends began as a campaigning body with the purpose of restoring the Gardens to their former glory. Pressure was put on the local council to improve maintenance and over several years a grant was obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund ('HLF'). In 2009 the Gardens were restored. In 2013/2014 permission was sought and granted to use the remaining HLF funds with support from the council to redevelop the dilapidated gardeners' compound and toilets. The building completed in 2015 and the Friends ran drop in coffee mornings to introduce the new building to the park users as a temporary measure until the Council leased the kiosk. The kiosk is now leased by the Council and is a welcome addition to the Gardens enjoyed by many. The community space known as the Garden Pavilion is regularly used for both community and commercial activities, including exercise classes for older people, art classes, yoga classes, craft workshops, pottery painting sessions and Japanese book reading groups. Receipts from lettings will be put towards maintenance and running costs including cleaning and replacement of furniture and equipment.

The Friends are continuing to work with the council and the HLF to ensure that repairs are carried out to paths in the Gardens and have liaised with the Council over improved accessibility to the Gardens for wheelchair and buggy users by the replacement of cobbles at the entrances with flat stone paving.

The Friends have regular meetings and are in regular communication with both Merton Council's head of green spaces and the Council contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Gardens - idverde.

The Friends has an active gardening club who assist with maintenance of the flower beds in the Gardens and who have established a nursery area in the raised beds behind the Garden Pavilion. This area is used for the cultivation and growing on of plants for planting in the Gardens.

## **EVENTS AND THE EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC**

Due to the continued effects of the Coronavirus and the ensuing lockdowns and restrictions, the Friends were again unable to hold the usual programme of events in 2021. The Trustees took the difficult decision to cancel all events, either because the restrictions in place meant that the event could not be held or, in the case of the fireworks event, continuing uncertainty meant that advance commitments were unwise. The Easter Egg Hunt planned for April, Summer Picnic in June and Over 60s Cream Teas were cancelled and planning was not started for the Fireworks Event.

In the absence of the Easter Egg Hunt Event, children were invited to send in easter pictures, which were displayed in the windows of the Garden Pavilion – each participant received a small easter egg.

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2021**

The Gardening Club continued to meet whilst maintaining social distancing in accordance with Coronavirus restrictions. They continued to maintain the Heritage Lottery Beds, created, planted and built winter borders along the Kings Road edge of the Gardens and attracted regular new volunteers. The Gardening Club organised some additional sessions during the week for people who were working at home who wished to have their daily exercise in the park. The trustees funded a small coffee budget for the Gardening Club volunteers to obtain hot drinks from the kiosk.

The Gardening Club held a Plant Sale in June 2021. Many of the volunteers grew plants from seed at home and cuttings from plants in the Gardens raised in the nursery beds were for sale at reasonable prices. All proceeds were reinvested in the Friends. The unsold plants (which were very few) were replanted in the gardens.

The Garden Pavilion was closed from March 2020 until 19 July 2021. Resuming activities for many hirers has been slow with some regular pre-pandemic hirers not returning at all. In August 2021 a partnership was secured with Home Instead Care in Wimbledon for a regular Monday lunchtime booking. The Friends are very grateful for our volunteer room manager who looks after the administration for this resource.

In July 2021 the membership system was changed and is now fully automated using a recommended third-party provider for small membership organisations – MemberMojo.

This has resulted in a simplified system for members and a considerable workload taken away from our membership secretary volunteer. The membership fee is set at £10 per household and £5 per individual member and represents a small investment in a hugely valued local community resource. The introduction of a donation button during the renewal process has been helpful in generating funds. A total of £xxx or xxx% of our income was generated through this alone. The automation of the membership renewal process will enable the Friends to cease the SurveyMonkey subscription in 2022.

In the Autumn of 2021, the programme of refurbishment of the benches in the Gardens commenced. In total 35 benches will be refurbished starting with those without any dedication plaques. This expenditure has been planned for over the past couple of years and will be funded from our reserves.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Recurring administration expenses included insurance, Mailchimp, Zoom, Survey Monkey, the domain name and ICO registration. These sums were met from reserves. Expenditure by the Gardening Club was planned use of reserves and was less than the amount contained in the reserves policy.

The trustees continued to meet but virtually rather than in person during 2021. The Trustees' communication with the membership has been maintained with PDF copies of newsletters sent by email. There have also been regular updates on the Friends' social media pages.

The Park has been an invaluable community resource throughout the pandemic, but the level of use has posed some issues regarding littering and multiple parties at the weekend. The Friends regularly remind all park users to be mindful of each other whilst using the Gardens and also to take rubbish home.

Bliss in the Park has been operating the kiosk since August 2018. This has been a welcome addition to the Gardens and Christelle St Mart has been a valuable member of the community. Her team has been very helpful in helping the hirers of the Garden Pavilion. Joint events with Bliss in the Park will be planned in the future.

The financial impact of pandemic on the Friends income and expenditure has resulted in a deficit for the financial year 2021. The Accounts are attached to this Trustee Report.

## **CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

APPROVED by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Date

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK**  
**GARDENS**

**DRAFT**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income from subscriptions/donations		5,631	2,459
Gross income from events	2	-	-
Garden Room Rent and Takings		3,061	1,705
Interest		9	186
Sundry		194	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		8,895	4,350
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Expenses of events	2	47	700
Garden room outgoings		351	955
Insurance		371	873
Website and newsletter		1,557	1,052
Sundry		244	632
Gifts/donations/drinks		676	2,711
Plants purchased		5,802	2,229
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		9,048	9,152
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(153)</b>	<b>(4,802)</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance brought forward		91,937	96,739
Net decrease in funds		(153)	(4,802)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward		91,784	91,937
		<hr/>	<hr/>

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK**  
**GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**DRAFT**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at banks - current account	20,688	20,850
- deposit account	71,096	71,087
Total assets	<u>91,784</u>	<u>91,937</u>
 Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	91,784	91,937

**NOTES**

**1. Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis of accounting as permitted by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commission for smaller charities. Thus income includes amounts reimbursed by the London Borough of Merton relating to previous years and expenses include items where the relevant income has been recognised in earlier years.

**2. Income and expenditure of events**

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK  
GARDENS**

**NOTES**

**2. Income and expenditure of events**

	20121			2020		
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Income	Expenses	Profit
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Easter Egg Hunt		47	(47)	-	76	(76)
Picnic in the Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fireworks Party	-	-	-	-	624	(624)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	47	(47)	-	700	(700)

**FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162459

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# Accounts

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**The Friends of  
South Park Gardens**

Annual Report and Accounts  
*1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020*

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

**Address**

c/o The Garden Pavilion, South Park Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PN

**Trustees**

Helen Day (Chair)

Sylvia Lucas

Helen Buckley

Susan Hook

Carra Kane

Peter Kenning

Christopher Magee

Helen Rogers

Sarah Willis

David Benton – (resigned 31 May 2020)

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc

Chichester Branch

PO Box 1000

BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Ltd

COIF Charity Funds

80 Cheapside

London

EC4V 6DZ

## **THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

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#### **Development**

The Friends began as a campaigning body with the purpose of restoring the Gardens to their former glory. Pressure was put on the local council to improve maintenance and over several years a grant was obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund ('HLF'). In 2009 the Gardens were restored. In 2013/2014 permission was sought and granted to use the remaining HLF funds with support from the council to redevelop the dilapidated gardeners' compound and toilets. The building was completed in 2015 and the Friends ran drop in coffee mornings to introduce the new building to the park users as a temporary measure until the Council leased the kiosk. The kiosk is now leased by the Council and is a welcome addition to the Gardens enjoyed by many. The community space is regularly used for several activities including, art classes, yoga classes, theatre workshops, National Autistic Society coffee mornings, dementia café, pottery painting sessions, baking groups and Japanese book reading class. Receipts from lettings are put towards maintenance and running costs including cleaning and replacement of furniture and equipment. The Friends arranged the redecoration of the Garden Pavilion community space and a deep clean of the room and toilets in January and February 2020.

The Friends are continuing to work with the council and the HLF to ensure that repairs are carried out to paths in the Gardens and have liaised with the Council over improved accessibility to the Gardens for wheelchair and buggy users by the replacement of cobbles at entrances with flat stone paving.

The Friends attend meetings of the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum and have continued to monitor the maintenance of the Gardens following its outsourcing from the Council to *idverde*.

The Friends have an active gardening club who assist with maintenance of the flower beds in the Gardens and who have established an attractive vegetable garden behind the Garden Pavilion as well as creating a new wildflower area in the circle by the Garden Pavilion.

#### **EVENTS AND THE EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC**

Due to Coronavirus Act restrictions, the Friends were unable to hold the usual programme of events in 2020. The Trustees took the difficult decision to cancel all events, either because the restrictions in place meant that the event could not be held or, in the case of the fireworks event, continuing uncertainty meant that advance commitments were unwise. The Easter Egg Hunt planned for April, Summer Picnic in June and Over 60s Cream Teas were cancelled and planning was not started for the Fireworks Event.

In the absence of the Fireworks Event, children were invited to send in fireworks pictures, which were displayed in the windows of the Garden Pavilion.

Due to the pandemic, the AGM planned for March 2020 was postponed to June 2020 and held over Zoom. The trustees have continued to meet but virtually rather than in person. The Trustees also stopped hard copy delivery of newsletters due to the pandemic but email communication has been maintained with PDF copies of newsletters sent by email. There have also been regular updates on the Friends' website.

The Park has been an invaluable community resource throughout the pandemic but the level of use has posed some issues. The trustees liaised with Merton Council about notices on the park gates regarding social distancing and littering. The Park has remained open, but the toilets were closed for a period by the Council. Idverde gardeners continued to work in the park throughout.

Bliss in the Park had been operating the kiosk since August 2018. Trading was very challenging in the winter months. The trustees agreed to support the kiosk by making a one -off payment in 2020 to recognise the contribution made by the kiosk operator to the success of the Garden Pavilion by assisting with locking and unlocking and liaising with hirers and a monthly payment going forwards. The kiosk initially remained open but was later closed for a period due to public disquiet about queuing. The kiosk reopened in May 2020.

The Garden Pavilion room was closed to hirers in March 2020 until restrictions were fully lifted (this happened on 19 July 2021).

The Gardening Club continued to meet whilst maintaining social distance to comply with Coronavirus restrictions. They continued to maintain the Heritage Lottery Beds and attracted some new members who wished to have their daily exercise in the park. The Gardening Club organised some additional sessions during the week for people who were working at home. The trustees funded a small coffee budget for the Gardening Club to obtain hot drinks from the kiosk. In June 2020 the trustees approved a proposal from the Gardening Club for the creation of a wildflower meadow in the circle near the Garden Pavilion and work started on this in October 2020.

Due to the inability to hold any fundraising events or to hire the Garden Pavilion Room, expenditure in 2020 exceeded income. However, some of this expenditure was one-off expenditure which related to the previous years' income, such as the payment to the kiosk operator and a donation to the Woodland Trust from the Fireworks Event in 2019. Equipment purchased included spare keys, aprons, and oil cloth. Recurring expenses included insurance, Mail Chimp, Zoom, printing of newsletters, Survey Monkey, the domain name and ICO registration. These sums were met from reserves. Expenditure by the Gardening Club was planned use of reserves and was less than the amount planned in the reserves policy.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

APPROVED by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

  
.....

Date 14 September 2021

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income from subscriptions/donations		2,459	3,036
Gross income from events	2	-	17,603
Garden Room Rent and Takings		1,705	9,868
Interest		186	401
Sundry		-	-
		4,350	30,907
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Expenses of events	2	700	11,909
Garden room outgoing		955	931
Insurance		873	873
Website & newsletter		166	526
Sundry/administration		1,428	964
Gifts/drinks		801	554
Donations		2,000	-
Plants purchased		2,229	440
		9,152	16,198
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(4,802)</b>	14,709
Balance brought forward		96,739	82,030
Net increase/(decrease) in funds		(4,802)	14,709
Balance carried forward		91,937	96,739

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash at banks - current account	20,850	25,838
- deposit account	71,087	70,901
Total assets	91,937	96,739
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	91,937	96,739

**THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH PARK GARDENS**

**NOTES**

**1. Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis of accounting as permitted by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities" issued by the Charity Commission for smaller charities. Thus income includes amounts reimbursed by the London Borough of Merton relating to previous years and expenses include items where the relevant income has been recognised in earlier years.

**2. Income and expenditure of events**

	2020			2019		
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Income	Expenses	Profit
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Easter Egg Hunt	0	76	(76)	549	-	549
Picnic in the Park	0	0	0	-	251	(251)
Fireworks Party	0	624	(624)	17,053	11,659	5,395
	-	700	(700)	17,603	11,909	5,693