



The Friends of South Park Gardens

Annual Report and Accounts
1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

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
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

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.

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 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.

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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.

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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)

Date

10th October 2023

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GARDENS
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
RECEIPTS			
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
		<hr/> 17,247	<hr/> 8,895
PAYMENTS			
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 -
	10,871	9,048
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	6,376	(153)
Balance brought forward	91,784	91,937
Net decrease in funds Bench Renovation Project	6,376 (13,183)	(153) -
Balance carried forward	84,977	91,784

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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

Represented by:

Unrestricted funds

84,977

91,784

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

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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)	-	-	-
	<u>3,336</u>	<u>(1,762)</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>(47)</u>