

# **The Friends of Graham Street Park (FROGS)**

## **Trustees Annual Report for the period June 2021 – July 2022**

**Registered Charity Number: 1164862**

### Structure, Governance and management:

#### **Current Trustees:**

Chair – Heneg Parthenay – appointed June 2021

Treasurer – Maria Savage – appointed Sept 2015

Katja Carter – appointed November 2019

Deborah Partington – appointed May 2019

Brigid Flaconer – appointed June 2021

Saviana Lorenzi – appointed June 2021

#### **Structure:**

FROGS is a charitable incorporated organisation governed by a constitution drafted and adopted by its founding trustees in 2015.

New trustees are nominated and elected at the AGM.



### Objectives:

The objectives of the CIO are for the benefit of the inhabitants of Islington, London, to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support and assistance and improvement of Graham Street Park.

### Main Activities:

- Garden Maintenance and planting projects for the good of the environment, and the enjoyment of the public. This includes regular volunteer sessions for watering, weeding, sweeping, and litter picking and a monthly gardening group for planting. We actively seek plant donations and volunteer time to apply for grants to fund the gardening activity in the park.
- Dedicated communal food growing beds are maintained and allocated each Spring. A campaign to reach out to vulnerable/isolated community members seeking a plot this year brought new interest to the park and new members of the group including many young families. The food growing group also holds an annual potato festival to celebrate the hard work, share recipes and enjoy the park. Children are involved in planting and harvesting the beds and learn about where food comes from and healthy eating.
- Operating a community-run café to help fund activities and charitable causes. The kiosk is solely run by volunteers and therefore open on an ad-hoc basis. It is available for community events, fundraising projects and birthday parties. Often other charities, notably

Friends of Hanover use the kiosk for school events. The kiosk is a vital hub for park fundraising and community activities. It is also used as storage for the gardening group equipment and toilet access is available when possible.

- Regular community events focused on cohesion and inclusivity.
- Liaison with the Council: regular H&S inspections of all fixtures and fittings, including the children's play area equipment, gates, benches and the Kiosk building. Any issues are promptly reported to the Park Manager. In addition, maintenance is carried out on facilities installed by FROGS, such as the compost bays and hanging baskets.
- Volunteers maintain an active social media presence to update followers and stakeholders on activities going on in the park and notable achievements.
- Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Any benefit to themselves, such as access to the Kiosk facilities, is incidental to the goal of making the park a more pleasant, enjoyable, and accessible public amenity for all.

#### Additional Volunteer activities

- FROGS maintains a very active community gardening group with an active volunteer group of over 38 participants.
- There is an active composting group which maintains and provides a zero-waste community composting option to locals. This compost is then used throughout the park to support the gardening activities.
- A group of volunteers operates and maintains the kiosk for community events, after-school cake sales, fundraising projects and children's birthday parties.

#### Achievements and performance

FROGS elected a new Chair, Heneg Parthenay following the resignation of long-serving chair Nikki Gaddo at the 2021 AGM.

The Park has gone from strength to strength in the past year, in addition to the established initiatives such as the mini-plots for food growing, new attractions have been added to the Park, and a considerable amount of planting has been done.

Trustee, Katja Carter, led on the implementation of three new projects during March/April 2022:

1. Installation of GSP's own Little Free Library, this is made from large tree trunks with carved niches, protected by plastic doors, where books can be deposited for sharing. It is a popular resource which is helping with children's literacy and engaging the public.
2. The Willow Tunnel has added a natural dimension to the games in the children's park.
3. Organised a group of talented street artists to transform the neglected and drab walls of the games pitch. Professional artists donated their time and materials over several days in the park to complete an impressive and now loved art installation. The art has transformed the space attracting new park users.

Heneg Parthenay, Chair, is the liaison with the Council and maintenance Team, and has established a good working relationship with the Parks Manager.

Regular volunteer, Jane Kilgannon, nominated GSP for two Islington in Bloom awards. The park was awarded Silver Gilt and £100 in vouchers, for Best Community Gardening and Best Edible Garden. Two of the volunteers involved were interviewed for the Council magazine.

The Council installed two notice boards in March 2022, which have helped with attracting volunteers to the monthly Garden Group and generally helping to draw attention to the many community and family events which take place in the park.

FROGS has received donations of plants to the value of more than £500, including over 100 plants from Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Flower Show. Harkness Roses donated roses in Spring 2022, to fill in the gaps in the rose bed, and in Autumn 2021, the Woodland Trust donated native hedge whips for the boundary to the road.

From March 2022, Brigid Falconer set up a monthly park volunteer gardening group. Additional group sessions have been planned for specific planting, e.g, native hedge planting, unloading of compost deliveries, planting out of donations from Chelsea Flower Show and bulb planting.

FROGS now has a regular presence in the monthly Islington Friends of Parks Forum (Brigid Falconer).

FROGS volunteers operated the kiosk for the annual Angel Festival and raised over £800. We also held a book sale (coinciding with World Book Day) to raise funds for the conflict in Ukraine donating over £400 to the DEC to support their efforts.

The annual potato festival took place in September 2021, building on the success of the inaugural 2020 event this year's event was a huge success with creative gastronomic experiments with potatoes.

Other popular community events took place throughout the year including St Martin's lantern parade and the annual German Christmas party.

#### Financial Review:

FROGS maintains a positive cash balance through ad-hoc kiosk sales and donations from park stakeholders. Trustees agree on the use of reserves for each financial year following the AGM and the appointment of new trustees.

- Bank balance on 27/6/22 is £3342.
- Financial accounts for year ending October 31, 2021, are provided separately.

#### Declaration:

Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees report for 2021-22.

Name: *Maria Savag*

Position: *Treasurer*

Signature: *Maria Savag*





## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/11/2020	To	31/10/2021
------------------------	------------	----	------------

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations, legacies and grants	1,220	-	-	1,220	6660
Kiosk trading	1,947	-	-	1,947	85
Interest on deposit accounts	-	-	-	-	0
Hire of kiosk	300	-	-	300	0
Credits	-	-	-	-	78.26
	-	-	-	-	0
	-	-	-	-	0
	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>6,823</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>6,823</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Bank and interest charges	-	-	-	-	0
Cost of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	0
Cost of kiosk trading	280	-	-	280	177.16
Grants and donations paid	-	-	-	-	200
Insurance	157	-	-	157	89
Light and heating	-	-	-	-	0
Printing, stationery, postage	-	-	-	-	55.93
Repairs and maintenance	25	5,227	-	5,252	2005.87
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	0
Volunteer related costs (training, meetings, volunteer events)	-	-	-	-	0
Water and sewage	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>5,227</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,689</b>	<b>2,528</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans repaid to an external funder	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>5,227</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,689</b>	<b>2,528</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>- 5,227</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 2,221</b>	<b>4,295</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>5,227</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,128</b>	<b>1,832</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>6,128</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash on deposit	3,839	-	-
	Kiosk cash float	68	-	-
	Existing grants	-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

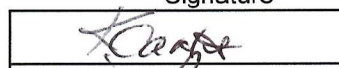

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Not applicable	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Cost (optional)	Current value
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Not applicable		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Kiosk equipment	Unrestricted	-	
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Volunteer expenses outstanding	Unrestricted	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on

Signature	Print Name	Date of
	Katja Carter	31/08/22
	Maria Savage	31/08/22