



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2022 To 31 March 2023

Charity name: Friends of Streatham Common (FoSC)

Charity registration number: 1166961

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	We exist to: 1. promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including Streatham Common, the Rookery and the Streatham Memorial Garden; 2. advance the education of the public in the areas of the charity's operation; 3. promote the provision of safe facilities, including children's play areas, nature reserves, community events and gardening spaces, in the interests of social welfare.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>In 2022-23 FoSC's activities supported the purposes above. Activity continued gradually to increase following the Covid-19 Pandemic</p> <p>FoSC continued to work with Streatham Common Co-operative (SCCoop) to raise funds which have been/will be spent on improvements to the Rookery Garden e.g. purchase of plants.</p> <p>Fund raising included business sponsorship.</p> <p>FoSC also worked with Lambeth Council on the wider Common, discussing requirements for maintenance and other enhancements.</p> <p>The centre-piece of FoSC's efforts was intended to be Wind Day for kite flying in September, but this was cancelled as a mark of respect following the death of HM the Queen.</p> <p>Other events included open-air Shakespeare and a fun Dog Show.</p> <p>FoSC also ran a small number of natural history walks around the Common. Some were on its own account and some jointly with Lambeth Council.</p>

		<p>Conservation volunteering took place. There was work with SCCoop on horticulture in the Rookery. Conservation measures were also undertaken in the woods e.g. improving paths and efforts to reduce erosion. FoSC members also contributed to tree planting to reduce water logging.</p> <p>FoSC continued to provide a regular newsletter, <i>Common Knowledge</i>, to its members.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the public benefit in the activities above. Promoting improvements to the Common and Rookery is likely to enhance the public's enjoyment of those spaces. The Trustees see public benefit as central to FoSC's purpose.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>FoSC has been able to support new planting in the Rookery Garden and environmental improvements, especially in the Streatham Common woods.</p> <p>It has also engaged Lambeth Council to effect various repairs to the Common which benefited all users and helped protect its Environment e.g. a long standing water leak in the Rookery Garden. It continues to engage the Council on concerns such as the future of the old car park, old road and placement of large bins.</p> <p>FoSC's trustees and officers have reverted to meeting regularly in person following the Covid-19 Pandemic.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Friends of Streatham Common is in a healthy financial position. It can cover its normal running expenses from regular income such as membership fees, which are adjusted from time to time. Fundraising is used to pay for improvements to the Common / Rookery or to support public events.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Unrestricted Reserves are held principally to support improvements on the Common and to cover basic running expenses. Restricted Reserves arise from donations which are specifically held to spend on projects with Streatham Common Co-operative (SCCoop)* in pursuit of shared purposes. These include planting, maintenance and restoration in the Rookery Garden. SCCoop will undertake work on behalf of the Friends as active manager of the Rookery.</p> <p>*SCCoop, full name Streatham Common Community Operations Limited, is an Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community which has an agreement with Lambeth Council to undertake the management of, and gardening in, the Rookery.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total funds held at the year-end were £59,873.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	In 2022-23 the largest single source of funds was a donation of £12,000 from Douglas & Gordon, estate agents.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Association Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charity Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected by members of the Friends of Streatham Common at its Annual General Meeting. The Trustees may co-opt to fill vacancies, but such appointments must be confirmed at the subsequent AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Trustees delegate day to day responsibility for FoSC to an executive committee. Most of the trustees are active members of the Committee.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	As noted above, FoSC works closely with Streatham Common Co-operative (SCCoop) in pursuit of shared objectives. SCCoop, as manager of the Rookery Garden, undertakes work on behalf of the Friends e.g. planting and maintenance. FoSC makes frequent donations to SCCoop in support of the latter's work in the Rookery and indeed the majority of FoSC's spending is through SCCoop.
Other		

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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Streatham Common
Other name the charity uses	FoSC or the Friends
Registered charity number	1166961
Charity's principal address	48 Strathbrook Road, Streatham, London, SW16 3AY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tracey Jean Williamson	Chair		AGM
2	Harriet Blacklay		Retired 29 June 2022	AGM
3	Nicholas Cattermole	Treasurer		AGM
4	Caroline Anne Hewitt			AGM
5	David Jonathan Malley	Secretary		AGM
6	Peter Newmark			AGM
7	Michael Robinson			AGM
8	Anne Hamilton		Appointed 29 June 2022.	AGM
9				
10	NB At the 2023 AGM on 28 June, Tracey Williamson retired as Chair, continuing as a Trustee. Caroline Hewitt was elected Chair. Nick Cattermole retired as Treasurer, but was re-elected as a Trustee. Richard Payne was elected as a Trustee and as Treasurer. Anne Hamilton resigned as a Trustee.			
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18				
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20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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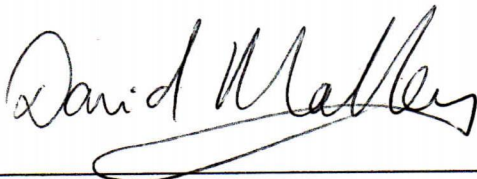
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Caroline Anne Hewitt	David Jonathan Malley
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair (from June 2023)	Secretary

Date 30th January 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Streatham Common

1166961

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership	2,744			2,744	2,921
Events	730			730	1,427
Donations	1,529	25,552		27,081	19,422
Bank Interest	91			91	5
Common Knowledge					-
Rounding					
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,094	25,552	-	30,646	23,775
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts	5,094	25,552	-	30,646	23,775
A3 Payments					
Environmental Improvements		44,194		44,194	10,049
Event Expenses	550			550	1,129
Common Knowledge	880			880	1,003
Insurance	442			442	442
Administration Expenses	729			729	489
PayPal/WorldPay Charges	525			525	805
Donations					-
Rounding					-
					-
Sub total	3,126	44,194	-	47,320	13,917
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	3,126	44,194	-	47,320	13,917
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,968	- 18,642	-	- 16,674	9,858
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	30,936	45,611		76,547	66,689
Cash funds this year end	32,904	26,969	-	59,873	76,547

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank Current Account	7,400		-
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	21,051	26,969	
	PayPal	4,181		-
	Cash in Hand	272		-
	Total cash funds	32,904	26,969	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-



	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Caroline Hewitt, Chair 23-24
Nick Cattermole, Treasurer, 22-23

30/1/24
30/1/24



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the trustees/members of

Friends Of Streatham Common

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2023

Set out on pages

1-3

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act
- have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 30th January 2024

Name:

Dr Kevin Riley

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

n/a

Address:

12 Braxted Park
London
SW16 3DW

Disclosure Section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight particular problems

Give here brief details of issues that the examiner wishes to disclose.

As in previous years, a final copy of the Trustees' Annual Report was not available at this time. The Accounts reviewed are those as seen by the Trustees and as presented to the Annual General Meeting.

The reasonableness of any significant estimates or judgments that have been made in preparing the Accounts has been assessed and accepted.

The Treasurer has provided all necessary documentation in electronic and physical form, supported by face-to-face discussion. I believe that I have been provided with sufficient information to be able to come to a reasonable view of the accounts. In my view the accounts are consistent with the available documentation and so appear to offer a reasonable view of the financial position of the Friends of Streatham Common.

At the beginning & end of the year Cash-In-Hand is counted & recorded by the Treasurer. Of necessity, I was unable to verify these figures. However, the value of £272 is consistent with the Accounts and at the same time not material.

It is noticeable that funds on deposit have been maintained at £48,020 for the last three years. This corresponds to 181% of average expenditure over this same period. It is perhaps worth reviewing policy on the appropriate level of financial reserves requiring to be held.

Overall, general project activity has remained steady, but at a lower level than pre-Covid pandemic. Unrestricted receipts of £5094 are largely unchanged from the previous year's £5,123, but remain well short of the £9,169 of pre-pandemic 2019-2020. Similarly, the expenditure of £3,126 on unrestricted activities in 2022-2023 was marginally lower than the figure of £3,868 for 2021-2022, but is still substantially lower than the £5,030 of 2019-2020. Nevertheless, in a worst-case scenario with no future external funding, it appears that the Charity would be able to continue raising sufficient funds to support its core programme of Unrestricted activities.

The use of Restricted Funds for activities in support of the charities' objectives has substantially increased in the current year. Income for the current and past years in support of activities underpinned by these funds was £25,552, £18,652, £27,288. Expenditure from these funds was £44,194, £10,049 and £14,675 respectively. Clearly, coinciding with the termination of the D&G contract, opportunities have been taken to greatly increase the level of funding for qualifying projects in the current year.

Overall, there appears to have been no adverse change in financial risk over the past year. However, there have recently been cases of banks withdrawing banking facilities from charities, causing them to be unable to operate. This seems to have been due to issues relating to the provision of up-to-date information on customer accounts as part of banks' regulatory obligations. It would be prudent to confirm that all relevant and current information is in place with Lloyds Bank, and to consider whether, under these circumstances, the charity could continue to operate its PayPal account as an emergency current account, if necessary.

Following recent changes to the membership of the charity, several of the Trustees have had, or still have, acted as a Trustee and/or Officer of a third-party Community Benefit Society providing services to FOSC. Although not falling under the definition of a Connected Party (Para 30 of the Constitution), the Trustees may wish to consider whether it may be appropriate to apply any of the provisions of Para 30 to those Trustees or to other Trustees in similar circumstances.

Summary Recommendations:

1. Review policy on the appropriate level of financial reserves requiring to be held by the charity
2. Confirm that all relevant and current information is in place with Lloyds Bank.
3. Consider whether the charity could continue to operate its PayPal account as an emergency current account, if necessary
4. Consider whether it may be appropriate to apply any of the provisions of Para 30 to those Trustees with a past or present relationship with a third-party service provider, or to other Trustees in similar circumstances.