

## **Friends of Wanstead Parklands**

### **Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The Trustees of Friends of Wanstead Parklands present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Friends of Wanstead Parklands registered as a CIO on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **Charity details**

Registered charity number: 1167459

#### *Trustees:*

The trustees who manage Friends of Wanstead Parklands are as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>First Appointed</b>	<b>Last Re-appointed</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
Simon Skelding	Treasurer	29-Mar-17	29-Apr-25	
Gill James	Secretary	29-Mar-17	29-Apr-25	
Peter Brimson	Chair	29-Mar-17	29-Apr-25	
John Sharpe		29-Mar-17	29-Apr-25	
Adrian Russell		10-Jun-21	29-Apr-25	
Lucy Dawes		22-Feb-24	29-Apr-25	

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 6 June 2016.

Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the annual general meeting held between February and April.

#### *Objects of the charity:*

- To promote the use of Wanstead Park for the benefit of the inhabitants of the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Newham and Waltham Forest, their surrounding areas and the wider public at large;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities or opportunities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life, in particular but not exclusively by the preservation, promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Wanstead Parklands;
- To promote for the benefit of the general public the conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Wanstead Parklands, especially its features of historic, architectural and wildlife interest;
- To advance public education in the character, archaeology and history of Wanstead Parklands.

## **Achievements and performance**

*Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects, and the key achievements of the charity, during the year:*

### **Campaigning**

During 2024 the Friends of Wanstead Parklands continued to campaign for investment in the restoration and management of Wanstead Parklands, and continues to work constructively both with the City of London Corporation ("CofL"), which manages most of the land that makes up the Wanstead Parklands, and with Epping Forest ("EF").

Following the frustrations in 2023, when CofL scrapped the Wanstead Park Liaison Group, leaving just the Epping Forest Consultation Group (EFCG) which deals with the whole forest and meets just three times a year, we are pleased to report significant improvement in consultation during 2024, with the creation of the Wanstead Park Stakeholder Group, which the Friends actively participate in, and creation of a new Park Project Officer role. This gives grounds for increased optimism for actions to improve the park for all users, and the Friends continue to work tirelessly to campaign for investment in the restoration and management of the park.

The Friends are represented on working parties considering the future of the grotto and temple buildings with Wanstead Park, both fragile structures which require plans for their structural preservation and continued public access. The working parties finished their recommendations over the course of 2024 with the Grotto Restoration and Management Plan and the Temple Comprehensive Management Plan. At the grotto, works to add steel support and replace defective brickwork are ongoing.

The Friends of Wanstead Parklands also continues to support to the project for play equipment in Wanstead park, securing an £8,000 donation in 2024, following donation of a sum of £2,000 in 2022. The natural play area was constructed during 2022 and 2023, and is now a well loved and used part of the park.

### **Events run**

The Friends of Wanstead Parklands ran many successful events during the course of a year, including three history walks in the park and another successful annual quiz event in November 2024, all with the aim of raising awareness of Wanstead Parklands' unique heritage, and offering an opportunity to enjoy the natural aspect of the park.

The Friends continue to hold the very successful litter pick events which began in 2020 and became a monthly event in 2021 and are now supplemented with a regular bookstall. These litter picks have generated significant interest and enabled community participation in the maintenance and improvement of Wanstead Parklands.

All of these events attract a significant number of adults and children into Wanstead Park.

## Promotion of the Park

Through a quarterly newsletter, website and social media (with over 6,000 members in a Facebook group and over 2,000 followers on Twitter/X), and a stall held at the annual Wanstead Festival, the Friends provided information to members, and the wider public, on key developments regarding maintenance works in the park, including the signage and grotto projects mentioned above, the natural play area, ongoing state of the lakes and associated repair work, and the re-introduction of grazing cattle to Wanstead Park.

## Other projects

As well as publicising the re-introduction of grazing cattle to Wanstead Park, the Friends continue to support the project by organising a rota of volunteer cow wardens.

The Friends continues to consult with members on ideas for projects that could be covered by small grants and existing funds. Any such ideas are discussed with the CofL with the aim of making further improvements to the park whilst we campaign for more significant funds for bigger projects.

## Financial Review

### *Reserves:*

The charity held cash at bank at December 2024 of £20,290 (31 December 2023: £19,100), of which £20,290 (31 December 2023: £14,670) is unrestricted funds. These funds are held in order to meet any unexpected expenditure that may occur. The charity aims to hold at least £7,000 and no more than £15,000 of reserves at the year end; reserves can be used to fund park projects of value up to £5,000.

### *Overview of financial performance:*

Income for the full year 2024 was £2,716 (2023: £3,836), with 34% (2023: 38%) coming from membership subscriptions, which is slightly down compared with 2023, mainly due to the impact of high levels of lifetime members joining in 2022 and 2023. Friends of Wanstead Parklands now have around 400 paid up members. The remaining income comes from donations and merchandise sales, and from the quiz night event mentioned above.

The main ongoing costs are insurance costs and the costs of running the website and quarterly newsletter, and there was further investment in merchandise (books, cards and leaflets) made during the year, intended to be sold in future to generate further funds.

A donation of £8,000 was made in 2024 (2023: £nil) towards the Wanstead Park playground fund, following the donations towards the playground fund and the signage project in 2022. This donation was fully covered by a private donation.

After these costs, the Friends had a net increase in funds of £1,094 in 2024 (2023: £2,308).

*Statement of receipts and payments for the year:*

Full Year	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year
2024	2023	2022	2021
GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP

**Income Statement**

**Revenue**

Membership	930	1,445	1,561	1,740
Sponsorship	-	605	-	-
Donations	337	405	831	328
Events / fundraising	902	965	716	799
Merchandise	520	367	1,130	321
Litter picking equipment sales	-	30	5	206
Paypal/Amazon just giving	-	18	6	44
Interest Income	28	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>3,437</b>

**Expenses**

Purchase of merchandise - new	-293	-123	-894	-100
Purchase of merchandise - existing	-100	-175	-	-
Subscriptions	-	-	-52	-52
Events / fundraising costs	-28	-172	-185	-20
Newsletter costs	-190	-305	-285	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-34	-	-
Printing and postage	-	-	-75	-112
Website expenses	-311	-288	-263	-240
Zoom subscription	-156	-144	-144	-144
Survey software subscription	-228	-	-	-
Litter picking equipment purchases	-	-	-	-130
Insurance	-141	-141	-141	-141
Committee member expenses	-42	-	-	-
Bank fees	-73	-87	-95	-19
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,562</b>	<b>-1,468</b>	<b>-2,134</b>	<b>-958</b>

<b>Net income before donations</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>2,479</b>
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**Donations**

Donation received re playground	8,000			
Donation to playground fund	-8,000		-2,000	
Donation to signage			-900	
Other donations	-60	-60		

<b>Total net income</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>-784</b>	<b>2,479</b>
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*Statement of assets and liabilities:*

	31 December 2024 GBP	31 December 2023 GBP	31 December 2022 GBP	31 December 2021 GBP
<b>Assets</b>				
HSBC current account	20,290	14,670	12,183	17,010
Nationwide savings account	0	4,425	4,425	4,425
Petty cash	74	74	74	74
Stock	387	487	667	724
	<b>20,750</b>	<b>19,656</b>	<b>17,348</b>	<b>22,233</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
	0	0	0	-4,100
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>20,750</b>	<b>19,656</b>	<b>17,348</b>	<b>18,133</b>

**Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Peter Brimson

Chair

29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

  
