



The Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK)

**Annual report and unaudited
financial statements**

**Financial Year
1st April 2023-31st March 2024**

Charity no. 1177405

<https://www.highgateromankiln.org.uk>



Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK) Annual Report 2023-2024

Annual Report

The Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK) was registered by the Charity Commission as a CIO (charity no. 1177405) on 25th February 2018.

Its object:

To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the second century AD Romano-British pottery kiln and factory excavated in Highgate Wood and in particular, by supporting the charitable work of Bruce Castle Museum, the owner of the Roman pottery kiln excavated in the Wood, and the City of London, owner of the Wood, in returning the kiln to the wood for its display, preservation, study and interpretation for the public benefit.



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Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees

Catherine West MP (chair)

Charlie Andrew

Rosie Boughton

Cllr Cathy Brennan

Michael Hammerson FSA

Nick Peacey MBE (secretary)

Harvey Sheldon FSA (vice-chair)

Jeremy Simons OBE, FSA

Trustees are appointed for three years in the first instance.

Our partners

The Trustees are grateful to all who supported us during the year. They include:

Claire Skinner and Hugh Dennis, our patrons

Bill LoSasso, Rob Shakespeare, Jonathan Meares, Declan O'Brien and Cindy

Blaney, Natural Environment Division of the City of London Corporation

Deborah Hedgecock, Curator, and the team at the Bruce Castle Museum, London Borough of Haringey

The Highgate Society

The Hornsey Historical Society

The Lauderdale House Society

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association

The volunteers and donors who have given us generous time and funding

Simon Blake, our Independent Examiner

The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the grant award to FOHRK,

lead applicant for the *Firing London's Imagination* partnership



The Natural Building Centre team
removing a kiln piece from the Highgate
Wood information Centre

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Achievements and performance: the year in focus

We concluded the last annual report at a historic moment: it was 56 years since the kiln had been lifted from its excavation site for exhibition in the Horniman Museum, 43 years after it was moved from the Horniman to Bruce Castle Museum for exhibition and 26 years since it was put in storage at Bruce Castle for lack of space. Now we and our partners in Firing London's Imagination (FLI) <https://firinglondonsimagination.com> could begin preparations for the project start date of 1st May.

Project achievements during the year

The Highgate Roman kiln: conservation and exhibition

A structural survey of the building planned to be the site of the returned kiln has been completed and has confirmed that the space is suitable for the purpose. Work is now being progressed with structural engineers and architects appointed by the City of London Corporation to inform its refurbishment and enhancement as a visitor centre for the kiln.

Trustees and partners with advice from the Historic England specialist adviser Lesley Durbin of Jackfield Conservation Studio, appointed Ned Scharer of the Natural Building Centre (NBC), to undertake the task of conserving and reassembling the kiln. In February 2024, the NBC team removed the kiln from Bruce Castle Museum and took it to their conservation studio in Llanrwst, Wales for assessment of its current condition and preservation and restoration options. The 21 pieces received at the Centre have been bedded on low 'trolleys' holding 3 or 4 pieces each so that they can be rolled into place and reassembled as a whole for display. The Secretary visited the NBC on 16th April to check on progress. During this visit other trustees and partners were able to view the kiln online and guide the plans for its restoration. The return date is on schedule for 27th August 2024.



**Temporary exhibition
including a 'postcard' from the Roman kiln
explaining that it's 'bonding in Wales'
and would be back soon
(designer: Stephany Ungless)**

Building and firing a replica kiln

As plans for kiln restoration progressed, trustees and partners had realised the advantages for interpretation, engagement and learning of building a full-sized replica kiln for demonstration firing and easy comparison with the original. So, after discussions with all stakeholders, the partners commissioned Graham Taylor of Potted History, generally agreed to be the most expert and experienced builder of Roman pottery kilns in the country, to build a replica of the kiln in Highgate Wood in the week beginning 12th of August 2024. Graham, who has built and regularly fires a replica Roman Kiln of similar design to the 'Highgate Kiln' at Vindolanda, visited the site and discussed schedules and requirements.

Volunteers

Many volunteers support our work. They include:

Orly Kritzman, an MA student at Central St Martins School who has carried out sampling and experimentation on the unusual and valued clay found in Highgate Wood researching its properties, including ease of preparation and suitability for specific purposes, such as for cookware.

Michael Hacker, our volunteer geologist, has supported Orly's work and himself carried out a series of explorations of the kiln site to understand how the distribution of 'the best quality' clay varied across the site.

We were delighted to welcome Michael Massey, the archaeological draughtsman to the original Highgate Kiln Experiment in 1971, to join the team. His new scale drawing of the Highgate kiln will be most helpful for the programme's work in future.

Alison Powell, ceramicist, regularly supports the work of the learning programme (see below). We are very grateful for her contribution.

Schools and Outreach Engagement Programme

Trustees are most grateful to Charlie Andrew for taking on the development and much of the teaching of this programme during the process of advertising for and appointing the half-time heritage engagement officer (HEO) for the project funded by the Heritage Fund employed by the City of London.

In October, we were delighted to welcome Michaela Wright as HEO. **She** has continued expansion of the programme of KS1 and KS 2 activities developed by Charlie Andrew. 714 school age students from Haringey schools and nearby boroughs with high pupil premium rates participated in our education programme between October 2023 and March 2024.

During the year we delivered 21 KS2 archaeology and clay workshops, led by Charlie and Michaela, with a total of 624 pupils taking part. We have received excellent feedback from the workshops, with one teacher commenting, 'The workshop was well sequenced so that the children could build up knowledge and I loved the local element'. Later sessions this



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summer will include learning activities with students from *The Treehouse School* for students with autistic spectrum disorder.

Forest School practitioner Sally Bailey has also delivered three KS1 Woodland adventure sessions (see sample page from the supporting booklet) in Highgate Wood, with a total of 90 pupils taking part.

The next step is to develop and deliver the programme offer for KS4/5. A KS4/5 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with arts. The programme is being piloted in the summer term 2024.

Can you find...?

All of these trees, plants, birds and minibeasts have been in Highgate Wood since Roman times. See if you can spot any of them.



I found it!

We call it: **Squirrel**
Romans called it: **Sciurus**
Both the English and Latin name for this animal come from the Ancient Greek 'skiouros' which means 'shadow-tail'.

We call it: **Song Thrush**
Romans called it: **Turdus**
Song thrushes make a beautiful, strong sound.



I found it!



We call it: **Elder**
Romans called it: **Sambuca**
The Romans used parts of the elder plant to dye their clothes different colours.



We call it: **Oak**
Romans called it: **Quercus**
Oak is a very important tree because it produces big planks of strong wood.



I found it!

We call it: **Crow**
Romans called it: **Corvus**
The crow has a loud 'caw-caw' call so even if you don't see it, you may hear it.



I found it!

We call them: **Moths and butterflies**
Romans called them: **Papiliones**
There are around 490 species of moths and butterflies that live in Highgate Wood.



I found it!

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We have taken advice from Phil Pollard of Historic England on structuring this to fit within HE's national strategic priorities for developing jobs in the heritage field. It will take place as a formally structured week of work experience.

Students will engage with a range of employment possibilities in the field while learning problem-solving and soft skills within a model of learning we call STE(A)M - science, technology, engineering and mathematics infused with an arts base. The arts base will include making and firing pottery, including the preparation of clay.

Expanded wellbeing & history through clay programme

November 2023 also saw the expansion of the schools' outreach as Charlie Andrew and volunteer ceramicist Alison Powell developed and launched a rolling six-week programme promoting both wellbeing, historical literacy and art skills at Mulberry School for Girls in Tower Hamlets. A group of students identified as likely to benefit socially or emotionally from their participation in the programme was chosen. Working on a series of creative clay projects themed around the Ancient World (and starting off with the Highgate Wood pot), students spent an hour a week for six weeks in a creative and nurturing setting. Evaluation of the project later in the year was overwhelmingly positive, to the extent that the project is continuing to run at the school.

Community engagement, including social media

We have taken part in community events in Lauderdale House, Highgate (the Highgate Heritage Day), the Highgate Wood Heritage Day and online addressed the West Essex Archaeological Society on Monday 11th March, but

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most of trustees' energies have gone into planning for the restored kiln's return and the building of the replica, major events scheduled for August and September 2024. We look forward to building on these as a foundation for the substantial expansion of the whole community engagement scheme.

FOHRK and its partners, the Firing London's Imagination project, maintain an active website and expanding social media, all set up by Michaela Wright. The website provides visitors with comprehensive information on the history of the project, detailed information on the project delivery partners and supporters, as well as information on our learning programmes, resources, and media.

Our social media platforms (Instagram and Twitter) were launched in October 2023. Both platforms continue to grow, with an increasing number of active followers engaging with the content. The aim of our social media is to provide followers with an insight into the project history, present the work created in our learning programmes and community events, and provide exciting updates and behind the scenes content to help followers stay up-to-date with our journey to reinstate the Highgate kiln in the wood where it was found.

Other information on activities and progress is shared through the FOHRK contact list, now over 300 strong.



The kiln at Vindolanda made and fired by Graham and Sarah Taylor
(Credit:FOHRK)

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Financial review

The balance sheet shows a small deficit on the year, mostly due to the time lag in reimbursement of FOHRK's significant expenditure funds to pay for the inevitable delay in appointment of the Heritage Education Officer after the award of the NLHF grant came on stream on 1st May 2023.

We are therefore most grateful to Rob Shakespeare and his colleagues at the City of London Corporation who have put together the frameworks that support the FLI programme's cash flow between the repayments from the Fund. The City also employs and provides management support for the project's Heritage Education Officer.

Trustee remuneration, benefits or expenses

Charlie Andrew received £6,600 for her work in developing and leading our outreach learning programme before the project Heritage Engagement Officer was appointed. The Secretary received repayment of £511 for travel and other expenses. No other Trustee received any remuneration, benefit or expenses during the year.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

Reference and Administrative details

Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK)

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales no 1177405

Principal office: 35, Ulleswater Road, London N14 7BL

Independent Examiner: Mr Simon Blake FCA



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Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account for period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Note s	Activities in furtherance of the CIO's objects	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023/4 All funds £	2022/3 All funds £
	Incoming resources				
	Donations	0	486	486	2212
1	Grants NHLF	5940	0	5940	0
	Grants other	0	0	0	50
	Fee for lecture	0	0	0	0
	Bank Interest	0	23	23	27
	Total incoming resources	5940	509	6449	2289
	Resources expended -				
2	Administration	0	351	351	353
	Travel expenses etc	511	0	511	321
	Marketing/design	473	0	473	0
3	Consultancy	7774	0	7774	4359
	Catering: public events, Lauderdale House	0	0	0	877
	Learning materials	2018	0	2018	
4	Repayment	0	285	285	
	Digitisation	0	819	819	
	Total expenditure	10776	1455	12231	5910
	Surplus/deficit for the period	(-)4836	(-)946	(-)5782	(-)3621
	Carried forward from FY 2022-2023	1085	15,346	16,431	20,052
	C/F to FY 2024/2025	(-)3751	14,400	10,649	16,431

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1. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. They follow the recommendations in the statement of recommended practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

Notes to accounts

1. First claim from NLHF grant (activities to 30th September 2023)
This covers net expenditure by FOHRK and CLC.
2. Bank charges (CAFBANK), web support for fund-raising including Just Giving), website maintenance
3. Consultant fees for heritage education support before half-time project officer was appointed by City of London
4. Repayment to the Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association



Tom, a participant in the 2010 *Haringey Potter* experiment decorates one of his pots. Credit: Bruce Castle M

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Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 All funds
Fixed assets	0	0	0
Current assets	(-)3751	14,400	10,649
Net assets	(-)3751	14,400	10,649

Approved by the Trustees on 4th July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Catherine West MP
(Chair)



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