

## The Friends of Kennington Park (FoKP) Trustees Annual Report 2020/21

Dated – September 2021

### Introduction

The Friends of Kennington Park were registered as a charity by the Charity Commission in April 2020. Seven Trustees were appointed. Our status is a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**, registration number 1188922. This report covers the period from our registration to end of August 2021 and thus includes the 2020 and 2021 AGMs.

Our purpose is defined as *being for the benefit of the inhabitants of South London ("the area of benefit"), 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 the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit in particular by supporting the preservation, conservation, improvement and protection of Kennington Park.*

Our current income level means that we are classified as a small charity.

This is the Trustees' first Annual Report, and it describes a far from normal period. We came into existence as a charity just after the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. The continued pandemic, its restrictions and lockdowns, has drastically reduced the number of park-based and other community events we have been able to arrange or attend and has created added complications for the events which have taken place. It also meant that we were unable to hold our usual AGM in 2020, turning instead to sharing documents via the website and receiving comment via email. The process worked well, but lacked the more detailed discussions which usual characterise our AGM. The absence of a face-to-face AGM and of other local events has had a negative impact on our income, reducing the number of members recruited and those renewing, limiting the opportunities for donations and book sales. All this, despite the park being much more heavily used than usual.

Despite these difficulties, a lot of work has been taking place to support the improvement and protection of the park by Trustees and other volunteers. The following sections of the report summarise what has happened in the first year since our registration as a charity.

### Park-based Activities and Events in 2020/2021

Several FoKP events had been planned for 2020/21 including an inaugural Easter Egg Hunt. We had also expected the park to become the location for a new Junior Parkrun in the late Spring. Neither of these events occurred and our regular activities such as volunteer gardening sessions, local history walks, and celebration of the 1848 Chartist Rally also had to be cancelled. There have also been no Corporate Volunteering Groups working in the park.

We liaised closely with Lambeth Council to ensure that we were aware of, and complied with, their requirements as each stage of the pandemic unfolded. As a result, we were unable to hold events over an extended period. We did manage to hold **two Bat Walks** with restricted numbers of attendees who all pre-registered and a virtual park walk on Zoom during Lambeth Heritage Month. We reintroduced **volunteer gardening sessions** as soon as this was permitted, but continued restrictions limited the numbers who could attend and reduced our ability to work with Goodgym and the other volunteer groups who support our gardening and litter-picking events. Those sessions that have taken place have been well supported.

The significant increase in use of the park, while positive in many respects, had a number of detrimental impacts on facilities, grassed areas and trees plus increased litter. As a result, we were in regular liaison with council staff about ways to both prevent and manage problems.

As a more positive reflection of the use of the park during the year, in March 2021, at the suggestion, and with the financial support, of a park user, we launched a **'Love Kennington Park' competition** designed to capture what the park had meant to people during lockdown. Large posters and signwriting were featured in the park and the competition was promoted extensively through social media. Categories included photos, videos, poetry, drawings and prose and there were prizes for adults and children. We received a wide range of entries; winners' contributions have been displayed in the park since the end of June and on our website and we have received a lot of positive comments about the initiative and the quality of entries. Again, a considerable amount of volunteer work contributed to the success of this project.

As a more permanent recognition of the place of the park in the local community, we have been working hard on the research, design, and development of a **local history display for the park**. The display, which has been partly supported by Lambeth Council and by Surrey Cricket Club, is designed to provide information about people and events associated with the park and the immediate surrounding area. In addition to the work by expert advisers, commissioned by us, many volunteer hours have gone into the research and into the design. One of our Trustees is leading the project, directing the research and has undertaken all the final design work. For this work she received a fee of £2500, paid by Lambeth Council.

We have started discussions with school representatives with a view to planning a **schools-based local history project** later this year, focused on the new display and we have already designed a series of quizzes.

As a reflection of unusual times, the **London in Bloom** inspections for 2020 were virtual, as were those for the **Green Flag Award**. However, this July there was an actual London in Bloom inspection with additional volunteer gardening and litter picking sessions. As on previous occasions, we worked closely with the council to ensure that the park and the FoKP activity programme were well presented. The Park has been highly successful in recent years winning both LiB gold and silver awards.

#### **Major TfL Works and a new Capital Development Programme by Lambeth Council**

Over the last few years, the park has been the site of a major TfL development associated with the Northern Line Extension. The Chair of FoKP has been extensively involved in the many meetings associated with this project since its inception. The frequency and importance to the park of these meetings has increased throughout the year as the project reaches its conclusion and a key area of the park will be returned to the council and parks users. The changing financial profile of the project, the time lapse between the initial agreements and its completion and several other factors have made the handover discussions complex and time-consuming. Extensive lobbying by the FoKP Chair has resulted in a far better outcome for the park than seemed likely at the start of the year. Work on this will continue until completion which is scheduled for Autumn 2021.

Following many years of engagement and negotiations by FoKP, Lambeth Council have agreed to invest a sizeable capital sum into the park. As well as **essential improvement work on some badly deteriorating toilets, drains and pathways**, we have campaigned for the **restoration of the iconic 1970s skatebowl**, one of only two of its type remaining in London, the **extension and improvement of the children's play area** and a **youth activity zone** focused on exercise and leisure for teenagers

and young people. We are working closely with the Council's Fundraising Officer to secure additional funding for all the projects.

Work on the skatebowl restoration was initiated by FOKP before formal agreement was reached with the council. This included securing expert advice from a UCL professor about the design of the bowl, contacting a structural engineer with relevant expertise and drafting a design brief for the council to use in commissioning the first stage of its investigative work. The council has since established a Skatebowl Restoration Steering Group, led by a senior project manager. The Group's membership includes the UCL professor, the structural engineer, local skaters and an FoKP Trustee.

Considerable progress has been made in undertaking investigative work and early-stage planning and the project will continue through 2021/22 and 2022/23.

In addition, we have also identified FoKP representatives for the overarching Capital Development Project Steering Group and for two other Project Groups. These groups are yet to meet, but in preparation we have already undertaken an initial survey of park users about the capital development programme, and further consultation is scheduled. We also undertook a month-long survey of the use of the children's play area which demonstrated just how popular the current facility is despite its limited size and now rather battered state.

### **Trustee Development**

When we sought to register as a charity, the committee were confident that many elements of our previous practice and procedures as a community organisation would still apply. However, we were also aware that there were additional responsibilities on us all individually and collectively, as well as new reporting requirements. To ensure that we were as prepared as possible for our new role, we undertook a number of actions.

To help us assess the areas we may need to strengthen as an organisation, we undertook a self-assessment questionnaire. Called **Better Friends**, this is a tool published and assessed by Parks Community UK. The effectiveness scores we received from the assessment were as follows:

- Organisation and Structure – 76%
- Meetings and Activities – 83%
- Strengths - Numbers, Skills, Inclusiveness & Partnerships – 68%
- Effectiveness and Ambition – 77%

The scores and commentary were considered by the Trustees and other committee members, and it was agreed that our focus should be on diversifying and increasing our membership base, building and recruiting new skills, and on partnership working and inclusivity. These reflected issues we had already identified in previous committee discussions.

A number of the projects described above and planned for the period 2021 - 2023 will provide excellent opportunities to help us achieve these goals.

One specific action to help involve the diverse communities which surround the park has been the development of a partnership with local community groups to plan and run a new event, The Kennington Park Festival on 30th August 2021. We received financial and resource support from 3 local businesses and the event was managed through volunteers. It was a huge success with a wide

range of performers from different communities taking part. We hope to develop this into an annual event. We are currently undertaking a review of the event to assist in future event planning.

In a further response to the assessment, we have sought to develop best practice by registering with advisory groups and related bodies, attending training and information sessions, contributing comments, and sharing ideas. For example:

- Registration with Small Charities Consortium (SCC), which led to:
  - Various committee members attending training courses
  - SCC weekly bulletins and information being shared with the committee when appropriate
  - Approaches to SCC linked organisations for funding and support eg The Fore
- Registration with numerous national and local bodies working in parks eg National Park City, Parks for London, Go Parks, London Green Network, etc giving us access to good practice examples and advice such as Guidance for working with volunteers during the pandemic

We continue to be active members of the Lambeth Park's Forum which allows us to comment on local developments and to share ideas and experiences between parks. Meetings are regularly attended by senior Lambeth Council officers giving us additional direct access to them.

#### **AGM – July 2021**

We were delighted to be able to hold an in-person AGM, hosted by one of the local churches and in an outdoor space, thereby allowing us to be as fully Covid secure as practicable. The attendance was less than normal but the meeting was quorate. There was both a formal agenda and two presentations.

#### **Financial Reporting**

There have been many fewer transactions this year because of the extended periods of inactivity. The usual financial protocols have been followed and the accounts were submitted to our Auditors for review prior to the AGM held in July. They have now been authorised and will be available on the website.

#### **Trustee Resignations and Appointments**

In accordance with the constitution, two Trustees are required to stand down each year.

**Adam Blacklay** resigned as a Trustee and Committee Member with effect from this AGM due to his relocation. **Rita Sammons** agreed to stand down in accordance with the requirements but stood for re-election and was reappointed by the meeting.

There is no requirement to elect additional Trustees at this stage, but the Committee are keen to add expertise so will be seeking new Trustees and also new committee members.

A draft copy of this report was submitted to and endorsed by the AGM.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

Despite the difficulties caused by successive lockdowns and restrictions, the Trustees, committee and individual officers have continued to meet (online and in person) to ensure that FoKP acts in accordance with the required protocols and legislation by ensuring that:

- money is appropriately spent, managed, and reported.
- decisions are made through the committee process and in accordance with our charitable purpose
- the interest of the park and its users are at the heart of our decision-making and actions

### **Summary**

Our first year as a charity has been an unusual one due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it has also given us the opportunity to refocus some of our efforts and to make significant progress on some of the projects which will support the continued improvement and development of the park in the coming years. Engaging the community in these and other activities and securing the additional funding necessary to ensure completion of the full programme will be the focus of our activity in 2021/22, alongside the return of our regular programme of activities.



**Marietta Crichton Stuart – Trustee and Chair of FoKP**

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**



The Friends of Kennington Park

Report and  
Financial Statements

For the Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

HW Associates Limited  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

# The Friends of Kennington Park

CONTENTS	PAGE
Management Committee's Report	1
Statement of Management Committees' Responsibilities	2
Independent Auditor's Report	3
Balance Sheet	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Income and Expenditure Report	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7

# The Friends of Kennington Park

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Management Committee present its annual report with the financial statements of the organisation for the year ended 31st March 2021.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Friends of Kennington Park is a voluntary body. The address is Prince Consort Lodge, Kennington Park Place, London, SE11 4AS. The objects of the organisation are set out in the constitution:

- for the benefit of the inhabitants of South London ("the area of benefit"), 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 the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit in particular by supporting the preservation, conservation, improvement and protection of Kennington Park

HM Revenue and Customs have accepted The Friends of Kennington Park as a charity for tax purposes under the reference XT26286 with effect from 12 May 2008.

Following the period end 2020 The Friends of Kennington Park was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO", 1188922) on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Kennington Park is managed by a management committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

## ACTIVITIES

- The Friends have worked with Lambeth Council, gardening volunteers and volunteer groups to help improve the park.
- The Friends have held a range of events throughout the year (though some were cancelled due to COVID-19), kept an up-to-date website about the park with news of activities and Covid19 guidelines, sent out with regular Mailchimp communications to the membership.
- The Friends ran a competition for residents to share their artistic expressions of the park during lockdown given it became a more central feature of daily life for many. There were a range of responses in various formats, including Paintings, Drawings, Photos, Videos and Poetry. The winners were announced here - <https://www.kenningtonpark.org/competition>

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Grants and the support of our donors and members have provided an income of £2,805 (2020: £9,910). A deficit of £44 (2020: £82 surplus) was recorded. The Friends of Kennington Park apply this income to the promotion of their objectives. In the event that income exceeds expenditure such surplus is not distributed but is retained by the Friends for the promotion of these objectives. A statement of financial activities is set out on page 5.

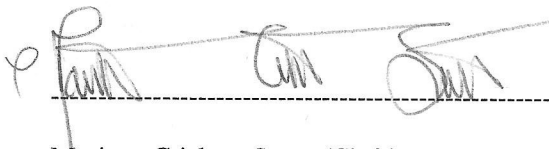
## STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Management Committee is required to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at the end of the financial year and of the Income & Expenditure for that year. In preparing those statements, the committee is required to:

- Select the appropriate accounting policies and apply them consistently (see Note 1);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue its activities.

The Management Committee members are responsible for ensuring that the organisation keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the organisation and which enable it to ensure the financial statements comply with the constitution of the organisation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation by taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by:



Marietta Crichton Stuart (Chair)

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Member of The Friends of Kennington Park

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We have audited the financial statements of The Friends of Kennington Park for the year ended 31 March 2021 as set out on pages 4 to 7. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Management Committee.

This report is made solely to the members, as a body, in accordance with the constitution of The Friends of Kennington Park. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of Management Committee

As described in the Statement of The Management Committee's Responsibilities the management committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the constitution.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, the financial statements are properly prepared in accordance with the constitution and the information given in the management committees' report is consistent with the financial statements. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the management committee has not kept proper accounting records and if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements

## Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the affairs as at 31st March 2021.
- the information provided in the Management Committee Report is consistent with the financial statements.

*HW Associates Ltd.*

HW Associates Limited

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Portmill House

Portmill Lane

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Herts SG5 1DJ

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*M. Hjertzen*


Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021


The Friends of Kennington Park

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	NOTE	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		10,170	10,265
Savings Account		8,519	8,468
Debtors		-	-
		<u>18,689</u>	<u>18,733</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (Amounts due within one year)	2	<u>(504)</u>	<u>(504)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>18,185</u>	<u>18,229</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>18,185</u></u>	<u><u>18,229</u></u>
RESERVES			
Restricted funds	4	9,825	10,962
General Funds		<u>8,360</u>	<u>7,267</u>
		<u>18,185</u>	<u>18,229</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Management on [xx] July 2021

  
Marietta Crichton Stuart (Chair)

  
Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

	NOTES	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
<u>INCOME</u>					
Memberships, Sales & Donations Received		2,254	-	2,254	2,261
Grants Received	3	-	500	500	7,600
Cash income		-	-	-	-
Interest Received		51	-	51	49
Total incoming resources		<u>2,305</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,805</u>	<u>9,910</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>					
Direct charitable expenditure		-	1,637	1,637	7,856
Management and administration		<u>1,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,212</u>	<u>1,972</u>
Total resources expended		<u>1,212</u>	<u>1,637</u>	<u>2,849</u>	<u>9,828</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		1,093	(1,137)	(44)	82
Transfers between funds/Accruals		-	-	-	-
<b>Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2020</b>		<u><b>7,017</b></u>	<u><b>11,212</b></u>	<u><b>18,229</b></u>	<u><b>18,147</b></u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2021</b>		<u><b>8,110</b></u>	<u><b>10,075</b></u>	<u><b>18,185</b></u>	<u><b>18,229</b></u>

# The Friends of Kennington Park

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME		
Memberships, Sales & Donations	2,254	2,261
Kennington Chartist Project	-	3,600
History Boards	-	3,500
Gardens	500	500
Bank Interest	<u>51</u>	<u>49</u>
	2,805	9,910
LESS GENERAL EXPENDITURE		
Management & Administration	648	1,440
Accountancy Fees	504	504
Play Improvement Appeal	420	-
Kennington Chartist Project	-	3,350
History Boards	-	3,500
Gardens	1,217	864
Dev/Fund	-	142
Bank charges and interest	<u>60</u>	<u>28</u>
	(2,849)	(9,828)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(44)</u>	<u>82</u>

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Accounting conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### 2. SUNDRY CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	504	504
Other Creditors	-	-
	<u>504</u>	<u>504</u>

### 3. GRANTS RECEIVED

	2021	2020
	£	£
Kennington Chartist Project	-	3,600
History Boards	-	3,500
Gardens	500	500
	<u>500</u>	<u>7,600</u>

### 4. Restricted Funds by Project

	2021	2020
	£	£
Development and Fundraising	9,622	9,623
Play Improvement Appeal	-	419
Kennington Chartist Project	-	-
History Boards	-	-
Gardens	203	920
Total	<u>9,825</u>	<u>10,962</u>