



## **Report of Trustees to Charity Commission - 2024– 2025**

### **Introduction**

The Friends of Kennington Park was 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.

Our Charitable 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 financial year ran from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to the end of March 2025. Our current income level means that we are classified as a small charity. Our accounts are audited annually by an independent Auditor and copies are available on our website.

***This activity report covers the period starting from the AGM in September 2024.***

### **Park Infrastructure – Improvement and Protection**

2024/25 has been another busy year. As well as organising the annual programme of events and managing the day-to-day issues relating to the park, members of the committee have particularly focused on pressing the council to make greater progress on the tendering and contracting of the work for the refurbishment of the iconic 1970s skatebowl, a major component of the **capital development programme for the park**.

The delay was added to because of the council's insistence on reissuing the tender specification and for a review of the budget to ensure that there is sufficient funding for both phases of the project to be completed.

Due to the state of the Council's finances, there is currently a spending freeze and a complete review of the capital programme, so, apart from minor improvements to some of the pathways, there has been no progress on the park's capital programme which includes the new toilets the Friends have campaigned for or the proposed youth zone.

### **Events and Activities in the Park**

FoKP has held a diverse programme of events this year – all events were free, open to everybody and well promoted through park posters and social media. The programme included nature and history walks, including a Chartist walk to commemorate the 1848 Rally. The Easter Egg Hunt was again held in the Flower Garden and was enjoyed by lots of local children. Working again with our

co-organiser Melanin Health & Wellness, the Summer Festival (KPF25) was a great success. It was slightly bigger than in 2024 with more commercial stallholders. The event included music, dance, and games as well as a wide range of workshops, including flower crown making, crafts, dance and drumming and a Surrey County Cricket Club session on ball skills.

Our successful (and important) monthly gardening sessions continue to be popular. One of our members continues to part fund this with a very generous annual donation, for which we are very grateful. This year, we organised our first Dog Show which, despite the pouring rain, was a great success and will be held again this year.

The Committee recognises the need to arrange events which will appeal to all ages and communities. Other ideas include a tree hugging competition and the possibility of an outdoor art event. We also hope to restore and enhance the Nature Trail. This project has been proposed by a local community group and is subject to securing funding.

In November there was a well attended Remembrance Day service at the park's war memorial.

There have been few commercial events licensed by the Council, but, with virtually no notice, in August 2025 (as a result of issues elsewhere in Lambeth), Bensons Funfair were given permission to come on to the south field of the heritage park with their rides and caravans for a 3 week residency. FoKP's view is that the park is not an appropriate location for this size of event for such a prolonged period.

### **Partnership Working and Protection of the Park**

The working relationship between committee members and Lambeth Council management remains strong, as do relationships with local councillors. We continue to work in partnership with other park-based organisations such as Bee Urban and Trees for Cities to promote events and activities. Events such as the Summer Festival strengthen our ties with local businesses and organisations such as community services, schools, churches and colleges, also with community groups and independent traders. Junior Park run is now a weekly event in the park.

In addition, FoKP is an active on Lambeth's Park Forum and Local History Forum and a member of London-wide organisations helping us to keep in touch with developing issues, legislative requirements, etc. The Park was again awarded a Green Flag, has accreditation as a Green Heritage Site and received Gold awards from London in Bloom. We continue to encourage the council to proceed with the Field in Trust Initiative helping to ensure the long-term future of the park as a recreational space. Registration for the park has been delayed as the Council is trying to position itself to take all its parks through in one application.

### **Park Incidents**

Unfortunately, earlier this year a dog being exercised in the fenced Dog Walking Area escaped, left the park and was sadly killed by a car. This is the second incident involving the death of a dog in the last couple of years. The uneven surface of the large dog area plus holes dug by animals means that it is not possible to ensure that the fencing fully lines up with the rise and fall of the ground. Small dogs can squeeze out of small gaps.

The responsibility for handling matters relating to the incident falls to the council not the Friends, but inevitably we have been drawn into the extensive communication. Our approach has been agreed by committee and trustees and we have tried to remain as neutral as possible while providing relevant information and support.

At a recent Junior Parkrun, there was a near miss incident when a large branch fell unexpectedly from a tree very close to a young child. Nobody was hurt but it was obviously a shock. The park has many large and old trees which the Tree team regularly inspect, but we will be reviewing with council staff what advice we should give park users.

The Parkrun organisers have also had reason to complain to the council about the use of park vehicles while the children are running. Again this is not an issue that affects the FoKP directly, but we have sought to help create an effective solution which creates a safe environment but allows important park services to continue to be delivered.

The park is no longer locked overnight and there has been increase in the number of rough sleepers in tents. The Friends have frequently reported these to Lambeth and Streetlink. Apart from the resulting litter, hedges in the Flower Garden have been reduced in height and some wooden benches had to be removed.

## **Governance**

### **Financial Reporting and Updated Policies**

As the result of commercial sponsorship for some of our events and the generosity of members our budget position is healthy. The usual financial protocols have been followed. Our Treasurer has prepared the final accounts which were submitted to our Auditors for review prior to the AGM. This year we have reviewed and updated a number of our policies and role descriptions.

### **Membership Numbers**

Similarly, our membership levels are relatively stable although there has been a slight reduction in new members. We have a sizeable list of non member gardening volunteers. We are working to revitalise our promotional material and to develop a new membership drive.

### **Committee Membership and Trusteeship**

A new trustee was co-opted part way through the year and was formally approved by the 2024 AGM.

There are currently 5 committee members and 6 trustees

Two trustees will be standing down at this year's AGM as part of the required rotation. Both are prepared to continue to stand.

Recruiting new Committee member continues to be difficult despite publicity among members in our regular e-bulletins. One of the Committee formally stood down at the AGM and was proposed and elected as a trustee. The Secretary also formally stood down from her role, but agreed to continue to act as Secretary until a replacement was found. To date, no replacement has been identified.

Very sadly one of the committees was involved in a serious accident resulting in significant injuries which curtailed her active involvement over many months.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

FoKP continues to act in accordance with the necessary protocols and legislation required by the Charity Commission. This means that there is appropriate decision making and recording of decisions and there are protocols and policies in place. Specifically, this ensures that:

- money is appropriately spent, managed, and reported.
- decisions are made through the committee process and in accordance with our charitable purpose; these decisions are recorded in meeting notes and through the AGM process.
- the interests of the park and its users are the focus of our decision-making and actions.

### **Summary**

We have continued to help create improvements in the park and to run a successful programme of events. Progress on some of major developments in the park have been slower than anticipated mainly due to technical difficulties with only one fully completed and launched. Work has currently halted on the restoration of the skatebowl due to the Council's review of the Capital Programme, FoKP Committee members continue to liaise with the Council on this.

We have unfortunately not been able to add additional committee members this year, but we are pleased to have welcomed a co-opted trustee. Recruiting new committee members and event organisers remains a priority.

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

**September 2025**

### **Recommendation**

**The AGM is recommended to endorse the report of the Trustees.**

The Friends of Kennington Park

Report and  
Financial Statements

For the Year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

HW Associates Limited  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

# The Friends of Kennington Park

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# The Friends of Kennington Park

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Management Committee presents its annual report with the financial statements of the organisation for the year ended 31st March 2025.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Friends of Kennington Park is a registered charity (1188922) run by volunteers. 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 by supporting the preservation, conservation, improvement and protection of Kennington Park

HM Revenue and Customs 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 a registered charity governed by trustees and managed by a management committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

## ACTIVITIES

- Awarded a Green flag for the 14th year and London in Bloom awards for the park and flower garden
- Hosted Volunteer gardening sessions throughout the year
- Ran 4th annual Kennington park Summer Festival - another great success, bigger than before.
- New style Easter Egg Hunt developed catering for a larger number of children
- Organised successful inaugural Dog Show in September
- Designs for a new Nature Trail in the park developed - funding being sought
- Continued collaborative working with Lambeth Council to advance larger capital investment projects
- Ran regular calendar of events: a stall for RSPB Garden Birdwatch; dawn chorus, bat and history walks

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Grants and the support of our donors and members have provided an income of £15,136 (2024: £16,205). A surplus of £3,379 (2024: £2,058) 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.

## The Friends of Kennington Park

## 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 23 - 9 2025



Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)

Dated 2025



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Member of The Friends of Kennington Park

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have audited the financial statements of The Friends of Kennington Park for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 2025.
- 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

Hitchin

Herts SG5 1DJ

*11<sup>th</sup> November 2025.*

September 2025

The Friends of Kennington Park

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	NOTE	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		4,257	920
Savings Account		<u>17,013</u>	<u>16,942</u>
		21,270	17,862
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (Amounts due within one year)	2	<u>(564)</u>	<u>(551)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>20,706</u>	<u>17,311</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>20,706</u></u>	<u><u>17,311</u></u>
RESERVES			
Restricted funds			-
General Funds		<u>20,706</u>	<u>17,311</u>
		20,706	17,311

The Draft Financial Statements were considered by the Board of Management on 23 September 2025

    
Marietta Crichton Stuart (Chair)

  
Vilde Aagenaes (Treasurer)

The Friends of Kennington Park

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

	NOTES	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Memberships, Sales & Donations Received		2,932	-	2,932	8,147
Festival income and donations		10,535	-	10,535	8,040
Garden donations		1,600	-	1,600	-
Interest Received		69	-	69	18
Total incoming resources		<u>15,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,136</u>	<u>16,205</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Management and administration		2,178	-	2,178	4,836
Festival		8,037	-	8,037	8,276
Events		515	-	515	-
Gardens		1,027	-	1,027	1,035
Total resources expended		<u>11,757</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,757</u>	<u>14,147</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		3,379	-	3,379	2,058
Transfers between funds/Accruals		-	-	-	-
<b>Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2024</b>		<u><b>17,338</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>17,338</b></u>	<u><b>15,253</b></u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2025</b>		<u><b>20,717</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>20,717</b></u>	<u><b>17,338</b></u>

The Friends of Kennington Park

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME		
Memberships, Sales & Donations	2,932	8,147
Festival	10,535	8,040
Gardens	1,600	-
Bank Interest	<u>69</u>	<u>18</u>
	15,136	16,205
LESS GENERAL EXPENDITURE		
Management & Administration	1,602	4,229
Accountancy Fees	552	580
Festival	8,037	8,276
Events	515	-
Gardens	1,027	1,035
Bank charges and interest	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>
	(11,757)	(14,147)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	3,379	2,058

# The Friends of Kennington Park

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 31st MARCH 2025

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Accounting conventions

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

### 2. SUNDRY CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accountancy Fees	564	551
Other Creditors	-	-
	<u>564</u>	<u>551</u>

### 3. GRANTS AND NAMED PROJECTS RECEIVED

	2025	2024
	£	£
Festival Project	8,300	8,040
Gardens Project	1,600	-
	<u>9,900</u>	<u>8,040</u>

