

FRIENDS OF THERFIELD HEATH & GREENS



ANNUAL REPORT
2022/2023



CHAIR'S REPORT

The completion of my first year as Chair of the Friends of Therfield Heath & Greens has prompted deep reflection. Throughout this period, I have gained invaluable insights into Therfield Heath, our Members, and the exceptional community that actively contributes to the preservation and engagement of this treasured landscape.

In 2022/2023, we achieved significant milestones through a range of engagement and fundraising events. Notably, we proudly participated in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, planting trees as a symbol of our commitment to environmental preservation. Additionally, our monthly litter picks received unwavering support from dedicated volunteers, leaving a lasting impact on the cleanliness of Therfield Heath.

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the Friends' Charitable Objects, which guide our mission:

1. Promoting and encouraging the use and accessibility of Therfield Heath and Greens.
2. Raising awareness of the applicable bye-laws and regulations for Therfield Heath & Greens.
3. Fostering conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Therfield Heath.

I extend my appreciation to our Members and volunteers, whose unwavering support and dedication have played a vital role in advancing these objectives.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact, ensuring Therfield Heath and Greens remain a source of pride and enjoyment for present and future generations.



HOLLY CHRISTIE

Chair

2023 IN REVIEW

The Friends have curated a series of events spread across the year, designed to captivate the public and our members while immersing them in the beauty of the Heath and its remarkable biodiversity. One such occasion was our Bat Walk in September 2022, which allowed participants to witness the enchanting world of these nocturnal creatures first hand.

In addition, we organised gatherings aimed at enticing individuals to explore the Heath and enjoy the awe-inspiring nature reserve. Our vibrant Easter Egg Hunt drew in numerous families who joyfully traversed 'Fairy Wood' in search of hidden treasures. In June 2023, we organised invigorating outdoor yoga sessions, where participants revelled in the tranquil atmosphere of the Heath while engaging in two rejuvenating yoga classes.

These events provide an avenue for people to forge a connection with the Heath, but they also offer a delightful escape to savour the wonders of nature.

The Friends had an incredible opportunity to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative which we gladly embraced. In January 2023, we were honoured to have the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Richard H Beazley MBE, for the official tree-planting ceremony dedicated to Her Majesty. We were joined on the day by representatives from the Conservators, the Therfield Heath Ranger, and the team from Shire Trees Limited who graciously volunteered their time and expertise to plant the trees at no cost. To commemorate the occasion, four remarkable trees were carefully chosen: two hornbeams, an elm and a silver birch. These trees symbolise a living legacy representing the collective effort of planting over a million trees nationwide.

Engaging with the local community is also an important focus for the Friends. We actively participated in various community events, seizing the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share our passion for the Heath. The Kite Festival in August 2022 and the Sustainability event in October 2022 provided ideal platforms for the Friends to connect with people, spark conversations about our organisation, and answer any inquiries people had. These interactions allowed for a deeper understanding of the Friends' mission and the value of preserving the Heath.

FRIENDS EVENTS IN 2022/2023



Jul-Sep 2022
En-Plein Air
Art

Aug 2022
Photography
Course

Sep 2022
Bat Walk

Feb 2023
Annual Quiz

March 2023
Invertebrate
Identification
Talk

April 2023
Easter Egg
Hunt

June 2023
Yoga on the
Heath

May-Jun 2023
En-Plein Air
Art



In May 2023, the Friends Committee agreed to provide a grant to the Conservators, aiming to support the Therfield Heath Ranger in conducting vital habitat management. The grant was intended to fund the purchase of emission-free tools and protective gloves for their volunteers. Although the grant was agreed upon in May 2023, some logistical challenges have meant the transfer will be delayed to the following financial year, 2023/2024. Nonetheless, the Friends remain committed to fulfilling our promise and making a positive impact on the preservation and maintenance of the Heath.

WITH THANKS

The Friends is a fantastic organisation fuelled by the passion and dedication of volunteers. We simply couldn't accomplish all that we do without the incredible people who generously give their time and skills. It's important for us to take a moment and express our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved: the Committee Members, both past and present; every litter picker who helps keep our environment clean; every individual who leads engaging walks and talks for us; and those who have donated their goods and services. Your contributions have made a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Janet Rossignol-Bubbins, The Friends' former Chair and Committee member, for her unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the years. As she embarks on a well-deserved break with loved ones, we express our gratitude and wish her a fulfilling time surrounded by family and friends.

THE FUTURE

The Friends have an exciting roadmap for the future, encompassing the following goals:

1. We are steadfast in our commitment to providing a diverse range of opportunities for learning, engagement, and active involvement with the Heath.
2. We aspire to expand and diversify our Membership, fostering a vibrant community of individuals who share a deep appreciation for the Heath.
3. Enhance both the quantity and regularity of grants for the Heath, working with the Conservators, we aim to enhance the resources they may need to continue their valuable work of safeguarding and nurturing the Heath.



THANK YOU

The Friends of Therfield Heath & Greens Committee:

Holly Christie, Chair
Ann Smith, Secretary
Ray Munden, Treasurer
Sally Marchant
Bryony May
Dave Bubbins
Jane Dottridge
Sarah Ramsay
Janet Rossignol-Bubbins

Every litter picker who has come along on their Sunday and kept the Heath litter-free.

And every person who has donated their time, goods and services:

Brian Linskill
Bury Lane Farm
Cat Wright
Days Bakery
Dr Chantal Helm and the Herts and Middlesex Bat Group
Emily Mackay
Jane Manlove
Joan Munden
Jo Osbourney
Keith Truman
Mia Caro
Naturally Happy Dogs
Nick Beale
Pam Wright
Peter North
Prep World
Royston Picture Palace
Sandra Ready
Shepreth Wildlife Park
Shire Trees Limited
Tesco Extra Royston
The Original Factory Shop
Yoga with Aline



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Accounts for year 01.07.2022 – 30.06.2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership and Donations	1,843.00	Operating Costs	380.67
Events	1,698.02	Fundraising & Communications Costs	284.56
Grants and Donations	171.38	Grants & Projects	868.86
TOTAL INCOME	3,712.40	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,534.09

Profits for year	2,178.31
<u>Balance brought forward</u>	6,541.64
Cash balance	8,719.95
Balance in treasurer a/c at 01.07.2023	8,170.11
Balance in PayPal a/c at 01.07.2023	565.74
Cash float	28.10
Debt	(44.00)
Total	8,719.95

Reserves

General Funds – The Committee require the Friends to maintain readily accessible assets sufficient to fund not less than 6 months of running cost, at all times. In 2022/2023 this equated to £750.



Email

friendsoftherfieldheath@gmail.com

Website

www.friendsoftherfieldheath.org.uk



[@friendsoftherfieldheath](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftherfieldheath)

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