



Review of 2024 – Another fantastic year!



At the end of each year, I'm always amazed at just how much has been achieved by Bandstand Beds Association (BBA), and 2024 was no exception. Our organisation goes from strength to strength, and it's an absolute pleasure to feel part of this incredible community asset on Clapham Common.

When I first became a BBA member back in 2013, we just looked after the beds next to the café at the Bandstand, and the fruit beds in front of the toilet block on the Common. One of our most noticeable achievements in 2024 was improving the planting area at the fruit beds and working with Lambeth to get a new fence installed around this growing space. These beds produced a bumper crop of fruit, especially blackcurrants which made their way into our much sought-after jam.

Since our modest start 12 years ago, BBA now also manages a magnificent community food-growing and wildlife garden on Windmill Drive, along with a composting facility and orchard beside it. All providing space for local residents to get their hands in the dirt, while connecting with wildlife and nature. BBA offers a safe space that supports health and social wellbeing, by running a wealth of workshops and activities for the local community.

Throughout the year, there are gardening sessions on Monday afternoons, Saturday mornings, and Wednesday evenings during the summer months. The Monday sessions — in partnership with Froglife's dementia-friendly [Wild Times](#) — and Saturdays have good year-round attendance, with lots of gardening followed by a shared lunch or tea and cake. There's a fantastic social element to them!

In addition to our regular gardening sessions, we collaborate with schools and organisations local to Clapham and London-wide. In March, we ran a [volunteer morning](#) with Clapham's homeless charity [Ace of Clubs](#), to help with garden clearance ready for the growing season ahead. We also donated and planted five fruit trees. This is always a fun event and we're looking forward to a return visit in the early part of 2025.

Each year in April we join community gardens across London by taking part in [Capital Growth's](#) Good to Grow. This year's [Seed Sharing & Sowing](#) workshop at the garden was another great success, with people travelling from as far as Walthamstow and beyond to take part in the event – including Pam Warhurst, founder of the [Incredible Edible Network](#).

[KeyRing in Lambeth](#) is an organisation that supports around 50 people in the borough to build or maintain their independence. They usually meet at Clapham Library, but in May they made an afternoon trip across the Common to visit our community garden. After a guided tour, we sowed peashoots to grow at home, had tea and cake and shared lots of gardening tips.

On a sunny afternoon in June, we hosted a garden visit for two groups of Year 3 pupils (25+ in each) from [Heathbrook Primary School](#). The children were keen to check out how we do things at Bandstand Beds to gain inspiration for the amazing food-growing and nature activities they do at the school. Over the past few years, we've developed a good relationship with Heathbrook. We have been speaking to other local schools about garden visits.

The social element of the garden is hugely important, especially for people living alone with no outdoor space. In addition to tea and cake during a session or a shared lunch after a Saturday morning's gardening, we have held foodie events on site, including our [Common People Picnic](#) in May and summer solstice bring 'n' share event. Although the Picnic looked like it might be an absolute washout, the [Brixton Ultimate](#) frisbee team still turned up to volunteer despite the pouring rain. Luckily the sun came out after lunch and the Ultimate team did a magnificent job shifting a heap of compost for us.

The biggest event in BBA's calendar is our annual feast in September. A free community harvest festival with delicious food cooked in our field kitchen, plus stalls and lots of activities on the Common. The Ace of Clubs and Froglife joined us for the event which was well attended. We received generous support from local businesses who provided prizes for our fundraising raffle to help cover the costs of the day.

A popular activity at the feast is the scarecrow building. Once positioned around the garden, these rather impressive characters become a popular year-round attraction, photographed daily. It's amazing just how many people out walking on the Common do stop to check out our community garden. We also get lots of visitors on a Saturday morning dropping by to pick up goodies from our produce stall, or to take a wander round to see how our garden grows. Many of them, especially families, make a beeline for our pond hoping to see frogs, spawn or tadpoles.

Sadly, it became apparent in late summer that the lining of the pond built by former BBA member, Tom, had reached the end of its life. So before closing for our winter

break, we set about replacing it. With guidance from Froglife's Dylan Jackson-French, lots of help from our Monday group and an extra Friday volunteer session, we now have a new pond ready and waiting for our resident amphibians to spawn in spring. It's been another incredible year for BBA, promoting food growing while supporting and protecting wildlife. For a volunteer-led organisation we achieve an amazing amount of community engagement and provide an amazing safe space and environment on Clapham Common for wellbeing activities.

BBA has developed a sustainable model for a community-run organisation that continues to grow year on year, and it's always rewarding to have our efforts recognised. At the end of the summer, we were thrilled to be awarded Outstanding – Level 5, by London in Bloom for the second year running.

On a personal note, I felt honoured to receive Volunteer of the Year in the [Lambeth Civic Awards 2024](#) in recognition of my work on Clapham Common. Credit for this award is also due to the BBA members who have given me their continued help and support to create and sustain our green oasis in the heart of Clapham. A huge thank you to all of you.

So far in this report I've focussed on the positive aspects of BBA, but there are also challenges to managing a community garden. Climate change being the most significant of all. The extreme fluctuation in temperatures not only affects the crops we grow and our harvest, the increased heat of summer also impacts on the activities we run. To continue providing gardening and wellbeing activities – particularly for older people and children – it is necessary to provide some protection from the sun. We need to create an area of shade in the garden, such as build a pergola to facilitate the growing of grape vine or other climbing plants. This is a project we will propose to Lambeth Council in the year ahead.

BBA is now in its thirteenth year and continues to grow. Our success is due to the work of our dedicated members who give their time to keep our organisation, community garden and other growing spaces on Clapham Common sustainable. An enormous thank you to our members for making Bandstand Beds a welcoming and safe environment, where people from all walks of life can get outdoors, garden, connect with wildlife and nature, and socialise. Long may it continue.

David Dandridge

To see the online version of this review with photos, scan the QR code below or click on this link: [Another fantastic year! – Bandstand Beds](#).



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Bandstand Beds Association**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

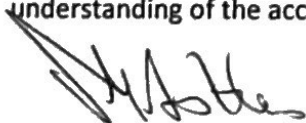
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name: Judith Astles

Relevant professional qualification: ACA ICAEW member 7539605

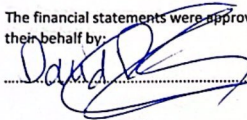
Address: 22 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, GU51 3AN

Date: 11 March 2025

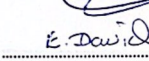
BANDSTAND BEDS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-
Co-operative bank	7,984	9,324
PayPal	106	69
	<u>8,090</u>	<u>9,393</u>
Liabilities	-	-
Net assets	<u>8,090</u>	<u>9,393</u>
Total funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted Income Funds	8,090	9,006
Restricted Income Funds	-	387
Total Charity funds	<u>8,090</u>	<u>9,393</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Trustees on 13 February 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:


..... David R Dandridge

Chair


..... Elizabeth David

Treasurer

BANDSTAND BEDS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31-Dec-24 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31-Dec-23 £
Income from:						
Membership subscriptions	726		726	713	-	713
Donations	7,987		7,987	6,790	-	6,790
Fundraising				860	-	860
Grants				-	6,225	6,225
Total income	8,713	-	8,713	8,363	6,225	14,588
Expenditure on:						
Equipment	3,679	102	3,781	1,480	4,557	6,037
Gardening supplies	1,218	285	1,503	514	355	869
Construction & maintenance	2,076		2,076	605	58	663
Workshops	384		384	786	220	1,006
Refreshments	705		705	539	164	703
PayPal fees	207		207	174	-	174
Insurance	252		252	-	252	252
Signage & leaflets	387		387	160	117	277
Room and van hire	86		86	222	15	237
Furniture	125		125	379	-	379
DBS check	42		42	24	-	24
Charitable donations made to Community organisations	468		468	1,991	100	2,091
Total expenditure	9,629	387	10,016	6,874	5,838	12,712
Net surplus & movement of funds	(916)	(387)	(1,303)	1,489	387	1,876
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	9,006	387	9,393	7,517	-	7,517
Total funds carry forward	8,090	-	8,090	9,006	387	9,393