



Simply the best – 2025!

With each passing year Bandstand Beds Association (BBA) goes from strength to strength, and in 2025 we received amazing recognition of our work on Clapham Common. For the third year running we were awarded 'Outstanding' in RHS London in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood. Then in November, it was announced in **The Gazette** that BBA had been honoured with the **King's Award for Voluntary Service** – the MBE for volunteer groups.

Receiving this award is a huge accolade for BBA, which began with just a few raised beds in 2012. Now, our volunteer-run organisation manages three growing spaces on the Clapham Common: our original namesake beds next to the café at the Bandstand, fruit beds near the children's playground, and our community garden which provides a welcoming space for people to grow food, connect with nature and one another.

Gardening activities & workshops

From February through to December 2025 we ran gardening sessions each week:

- Saturdays from 9am-1pm – usually followed by lunch prepared in our field kitchen.
- Mondays 2-4pm – our 55+ group in partnership with **Froglife's Wild Times**.
- Wednesdays 5-7pm – with a mediation session at the end (summertime only).



Tea and time to chat on a sunny Monday

In addition to our regular gardening sessions, we run and host additional workshops and activities with schools and local charities. In 2025, these included:

- **The Orchard Project** – facilitated a winter fruit tree pruning workshop in February.
- **Belleville Primary School** – as part of an eating locally project, five groups of 30 pupils visited us in March to see how our garden grows.
- **Brixton Ultimate** – the frisbee team that practises on the Common on Saturday mornings made a return visit for a spot of volunteering in the garden in March. After joining us for lunch they spent the afternoon shifting compost.
- **Get Growing** – to encourage more families to join our Saturday sessions, in April we began a series of gardening activities for children aged 4-plus.
- **Ace of Clubs** – for the second year running, a group of BBA volunteers headed along to the homeless charities garden in April to put in a morning's work prepping and planting ready for the growing season ahead. Later in the year we provided help and support with the garden and gave them seedlings grown in our polytunnel.



Ace of Clubs – job done!

- **Summer Garden Party** – in June we took part in the #GrowUrbanFestival2025, which brought together celebrations of community resilience and urban ecology across London. The event was supported by **Capital Growth** who, later in the year, facilitated a **Biodiversity at Bandstand Beds** workshop. The focus was

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to survey pollinators and better understand how urban food-growing spaces can support biodiversity.

- **KeyRing** – provides social care support for vulnerable adults, with regular meetings held at Clapham Library. In June, for the second year running, we welcomed them to spend an afternoon with us. An opportunity for the group to enjoy a walk together across the Common and spend the afternoon socialising in our garden.
- **Pickle-perfect Workshop** – facilitated in July by BBA member Sarah who shared a family recipe to preserve some of our cucumber harvest. Throughout the summer we also ran pop-up chutney making sessions – a great way to use up a glut of fruit and veg, and to raise money on our produce stall.
- **Bandstand Beds Feast** – our big annual event held in September. A free harvest celebration with food, fun-filled activities and a fundraising raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. There's always a great community atmosphere, and this year's feast was yet another fantastic event!



All the fun of the feast!

- **Royal Trinity Hospice** – a new partnership we began in October, hosting sessions for their Nature Bereavement Group. Our garden provided a safe, outdoor space away from the Hospice, and any emotionally triggering memories it might still present. The sessions were well-attended and enjoyed by RTH clients. We have already agreed dates for more sessions in April 2026.
- **Ready, Steady, Go!** – another new connection made during the October school half-term holiday, hosting a free activity with Lambeth's healthy lifestyle service.

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A group made up of seven families, including eleven young people, harvested veg from the garden, then prepared and cooked lunch using our onsite field kitchen.

- **Clapham Common Fruit Tree Planting** – to celebrate **National Tree Week**, at the end of November we ran a fantastic fruit tree planting event with **Lambeth** and **The Orchard Project**. This was a hugely successful and fun event – the perfect activity to end our year at the garden.



Teamwork equals dreamwork

With each passing year at Bandstand Beds there is always a new opportunity or challenge that presents itself. In the time we've had our community garden on the Common, the impact of climate change has become more evident, especially in the heat of summer. The area we use for workshops and to socialise offers no shade.

To resolve this problem, with money raised from donations and a grant from the **National Lottery Community Fund**, we have now installed a structure that will serve as a climbing frame for plants. In time, this construction will provide a shaded area in the garden where people can work, sit and relax – particularly beneficial for group activities involving children and vulnerable older people.

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A place out of the sun

With the plant structure up, we will now take on another challenge posed by hotter summers – keeping food cool for our events. Our next big project at the garden will be to install a power supply to run electrical appliances in our kitchen, such as a fridge. This installation of an electricity supply will be our fundraising focus for 2026.

Everything achieved by our organisation over the years is thanks to the input of volunteers, dedicated Bandstand Beds members who give their time for free to make our garden and other growing spaces on the Clapham Common such a wonderful asset to the local community.

In 2025, we have had more people join BBA than ever before. Not only did our membership increase, we also now have more people regularly attending gardening sessions and showing solid commitment to help with the running and management of our volunteer-led organisation.

The time BBA volunteers spent at the garden during our regular Saturday, Monday and Wednesday evening sessions during 2025 amounts to around 3600 hours. Add in the time spent watering, along with planning, hosting and running activities for local charities, schools and organisations, and the amount of volunteer hours increases significantly.

Receiving the King's Awards for Voluntary Service is a huge feather in BBA's cap and has now set the bar high. Going forward, we will endeavour to continue making Bandstand Beds a welcoming and safe environment, where people from all walks of

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life can get outdoors, garden, connect with wildlife and nature, and socialise. Long may it continue.

Written by David Dandridge – BBA Chair.

This blog highlights our main achievements in 2025. For more information, photos and updates, follow us on Instagram [@ccbandsstandbeds](#).

To find out more about how to become a BBA volunteer and sign up for membership, visit bandstandbeds.org.uk.

Special thanks to Lambeth Council for the continued help and support they have given BBA since it was set up on Clapham Common in 2013.

**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 2025, 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

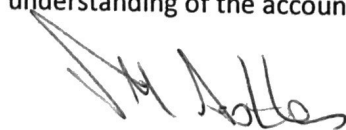
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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:

	2025	2024			
INCOME					
Membership Subs.	1,025.00	726.00			
Donations	13,961.94	7,986.64			
Grants (Nat. Lottery Community Fund)	5,627.00				
			17,142.00		
TOTAL INCOME	20,613.94	8,712.64			
EXPENDITURE					
Hospitality	147.00	0.00			
Workshops	300.00	384.00			
Equipment	3,872.58	3,781.11			
Refreshments	1,338.12	704.92			
Seeds/plants	1,844.62	1,502.96			
Maintenance/construction	6,827.29	2,076.33			
PayPal fees	316.56	206.68			0
Insurance	252.00	252.00			
Room/van hire	173.63	86.25			
Signage/leaflets	263.90	387.00			
Furniture	1,347.91	125.00			
Website	264.00	0.00			
Charitable donations	170.00	468.00			
DBS check	24.00	42.00			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,141.61	10,016.25			
Surplus/Deficit	3,472.33	-1,303.61			
OPENING BALANCE	8,089.71	9,393.32			
INCOME	20,831.06	8,712.64			
EXPENDITURE	17,358.73	10,016.25			
CLOSING BALANCE	11,562.04	8,089.71			
CO-OP BANK	11,182.84	7,983.91			
PAYPAL	379.20	105.80			
BALANCE @ YEAR END	11,562.04	8,089.71			

BANDSTAND BEDS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Year ended 31-Dec-25 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Year ended 31-Dec-24 £
Income from:						
Membership subscriptions	1,025	-	1,025	726	-	726
Donations	13,962	-	13,962	7,987	-	7,987
Grants	-	5,627	5,627	-	-	-
Total income	14,987	5,627	20,614	8,713	-	8,713
Expenditure on:						
Hospitality	147	-	147	-	-	-
Equipment	3,872	-	3,872	3,679	102	3,781
Gardening supplies	1,845	-	1,845	1,218	285	1,503
Construction & maintenance	2,203	4,624	6,827	2,076		2,076
Workshops	300	-	300	384		384
Refreshments	1,338	-	1,338	705		705
PayPal fees	317	-	317	207		207
Insurance	252	-	252	252		252
Signage & leaflets	264	-	264	387		387
Room and van hire	174	-	174	86		86
Furniture	345	1,003	1,348	125		125
Website	264	-	264	-		-
DBS check	24	-	24	42		42
Charitable donations made to Community organisations	170	-	170	468		468
Total expenditure	11,515	5,627	17,142	9,629	387	10,016
Net surplus & movement of funds	3,472	0	3,472	(916)	(387)	(1,303)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	8,090	-	8,090	9,006	387	9,393
Total funds carry forward	<u>11,562</u>	<u></u>	<u>11,562</u>	<u>8,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,090</u>

BANDSTAND BEDS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-
Co-operative bank	11,183	7,984
PayPal	379	106
	<u>11,562</u>	<u>8,090</u>
Liabilities	-	-
Net assets	<u>11,562</u>	<u>8,090</u>
Total funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted Income Funds	11,562	8,090
Restricted Income Funds	-	-
Total Charity funds	<u>11,562</u>	<u>8,090</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Trustees on 12 February 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

..... David R Dandridge

Chair

..... Elizabeth David

Treasurer

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

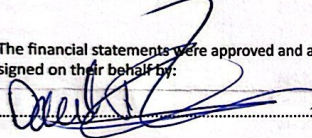
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Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	8,090	-	8,090	9,006	387	9,393
Total funds carry forward	11,562	-	11,562	8,090	-	8,090

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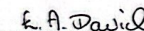
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