

The Dulwich Park Friends: trustees' annual report for presentation at AGM on Monday 8 April 2024 from 6-7.30pm Francis Peek Building

This short Report outlines the following:

- The principal events we have organised or been involved with in Dulwich Park.
- Our finances and how we have spent our funds.
- Other actions and activities related to Dulwich Park.
- Our objectives and plans for the upcoming year.

We would very much welcome anyone who would like to join us as a committee member/trustee, equally anyone who is able to help us by volunteering in upcoming events. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact us at dulwichparkfriends@gmail.com.

Principal events DPF have organised/been involved with

The main events that we have organised or been involved with during the year (all with the valued support of volunteers) are:

- Tend the park sessions- these are gardening activities in the Park- typically every month in the Spring/early Summer months and then again in the Autumn. We have planted spring bulbs and plants all over the park as well as undertaking clearance sessions in the copse and American Gardens.
- Litter picking- every Monday morning from Easter to September a small group supports the park staff in picking up litter where this has been left by visitors and then spread by foxes even if left in the park bins. Litter control in the park continues to be a challenging issue, especially when the weather is warm enough for pic-nics and take away food in the park. The issue of litter and waste collection in the park has been raised with the park management and Councillors and is the subject of on-going discussions.
- The May park fair- we support Southwark Council in organising a fair in the park every May. This year, the fair will take place on Sunday 12 May 12-5pm and is free of charge to enter. We extend particular thanks to Emily Montague, Nino Harvey-Jones and Trevor Moore who put in enormous efforts to make this event enjoyable and a financial success.

Other activities

In addition to the regular events which we organise, other activities have included:

- Liaising with Southwark Councillors and park management where issues arise which affect the Park and visitors to it eg seeking support to arrange the installation of a defibrillator at the Francis Peek Centre and other Park maintenance issues.
- Making applications for Southwark Council grants to fund activities and improvements in the park, for example under the Cleaner, Safer, Greener grant funding scheme. We enjoyed good success this year with grants awarded for Tend the Park plants and materials and for lake improvement works. Sadly, our application for fox-proof and larger wheelie bins to replace the existing park bins was not successful.
- Representing the interests of park users and the preservation of the fabric of the park in the face of increasing number of commercial events in the park such as Pub in the Park and Luna Cinema.
- Representing park users at one off events- this year Emily Montague worked with Southwark Council who have installed a toilet and changing facility for disabled children and adults. It was opened on 9 March 2024 and is located near the café area.

- Encouraging and supporting the participation of volunteer groups in park gardening and care activities. A number of corporate and school groups kindly send groups to do jobs such as weed pulling and bramble clearance in the American Garden.
- Keeping members informed about Dulwich Park with a seasonal newsletter.

Our finances

Income from membership subscriptions was £1,792 (£2,387 last year) and grants of £1,130 for the concert bands in 2023. We received a donation of £290 (from Dulwich Society) towards the Francis Peek Plaque and £1,900 (various organisations) towards the Fair.

Expenditure for the year was £4,867 (£6,017 last year) mainly for our events. We made a donation of £483 towards the green house at Dulwich Vegetable Garden. We spent £200 on the report on the rhododendrons.

We currently have cash in bank of £13,189 (£12,852 last year).

We have 190 fully paid household members (242 last year) The drop is from setting up as a CIO and asking members to set up new Direct Debits for our new bank account.

Objectives and priorities for the coming year

Our general objectives and purposes as set out in our constitution are as follows:

"..... the restoration, preservation, conservation, improvement of Dulwich Park, hereinafter the **Park**, as a public facility of historic and ecological interest, preserving the features, conserving the natural parkland and wildlife sanctuary and enhancing the whole of the area and the use of it for the relaxation, leisure and tranquillity of the public and to stimulate the interest of the public in the Park and the enhancement of the whole area, its restoration and preservation."

In addition to continuing to support the activities and events outlined above, our specific objectives for the coming year are:

- Increasing our membership base and encouraging members to join our committee.
- Widening our volunteer base- there are always jobs to do – please spread the word!
- Selecting some key projects to work on- eg the Japanese Garden and work to improve the overgrowth at the lake. We would also like volunteers to help start a new project to raise funds for refurbishment work in the playground.
- To work with the new park management team (Andrew Williams replaces Phil Barwell. Robert Roach continues as Andrew's deputy). New initiatives include a quarterly "walk around" of the park with management to highlight any issues of concern.

Thanks to members, volunteers and trustees

We are very grateful for the continued support of the members of Dulwich Park Friends. We extend special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who turn up in all weathers to help at our events. Finally, as Chair, I would like to thank our Trustees, Emily Montague, Trevor Moore, Jackie Prescott and Nino Harvey- Murray all of whom have put in a lot of their time and effort as Committee members.

Jill Gauntlett, Chair

The Dulwich Park Friends April 2024

Registered as a charitable incorporated organisation at the Charity Commission, charity number: 1196576.

DULWICH PARK FRIENDS

Registered Charity No. 1196576

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dulwich Park Friends

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 29 February 2024, which are set out on page 1.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: The Charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to;

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

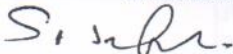
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act: and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to 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.



S. A. Jeffries
Chartered Accountant
K. A. Jeffries & Company
18 Melbourne Grove
London SE22 8RA

Date: 2.4.2024,

Dulwich Park Friends
Registered charity no 1196576
Accounts for year ended 29th February 2024
Receipts and payments accounts

2023		2024		
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	
£	Income	Funds £	Funds £	£
2,387	Subscriptions	1,792		1,792
440	Calendar Sales			
3,675	Grants & Donations for Dulwich Park Fair & Concert Bands	1,900	1,130	3,030
1,108	HMRC Gift aid claim			
	Donation for Francis Peek Plaque	290		290
91	Taken Through Square on behalf of Mayhew		92	92
7,701		3,982	1,222	5,204

		Payments		
280	IT including web site	114		114
287	Insurance	167		167
393	Misc inc AGM			
2,821	Dulwich Park Fair & Concert Bands	2,503	1,222	3,725
33	Litter picking Materials			
262	Calendar receipts			
38	Paypal, Gocardless & Bank charges	130		130
322	Tend the park	48		48
581	Plaque Francis Peek			
	Rhododendron Report	200		200
	Contribution - Greenhouse DVG	483		483
1,000	Contribution - New swings			
6,017	Total	3,645	1,222	4,867
1,684	Net receipts (expenditure)	337		

Cash funds at 28th February 2023	12,852
Cash funds at 29th February 2024	13,189
	337

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 29th FEBRUARY 2024		
Monetary assests		
2023		2024
Bank Balances	£	£
General fund	10,055	10,996
Dulwich Park Fair & Conce	854	250
Greener City Fund grant	1,943	1,943
	12,852	13,189