

Registered Charity No: 802905

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK
REPORT
and
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Contents

	Page
Legal and Administrative Details	3-4
The Objectives of Friends of Battersea Park	5
Trustees' Report	6-8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12-15

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Legal and Administrative Details

The Committee of the Friends of Battersea Park are the Trustees of the Charity. The officers (starred below) are initially elected for a term of three years; they are eligible for re-election thereafter.

Fenella Barber

Karen Buckle

Julia Camara (co-opted March 2023)

Russ Coffey

Inge Darling

Christopher Davies (resigned September 2022)

Claire Elliot (resigned September 2022)

Adrian Flook

Treasurer*

Miles Kerstein (co-opted January 2023)

Peta-May Law

Sara Milne (co-opted Sept 21; elected September 2022)

Briony Newman

Juliet Lyon-Smith

Secretary*

Michèle Marriott

Sally Orman

Frances Radcliffe

Annabel Stein

Garon Watkins

Chairman*

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

Legal and Administrative Details (continued)

**TSB, Clapham
CAF
Shawbrook**

**Bankers
Bankers (until January 2023)
Bankers**

John Marsh

Independent Examiner

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

The objectives of the Friends of Battersea Park shall be for the public benefit to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Battersea Park (hereinafter called “the Park”) as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, rest and recreation; to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Park and, in particular, its retention as a semi-natural habitat for wildlife; and to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Activities

The year ending 31 March 2023 proved a busy year for Battersea Park and the Friends as it was the first full year free of any Covid-19 related restrictions so our usual programme of events was re-established and enhanced. During the year, your Committee met 9 times by zoom. These meetings were also attended by Neil Blackley, Head of Parks for Enable Leisure and Culture, joined more recently by Valter Goncalves who has been appointed by Enable to coordinate and communicate with Friends groups and Management Advisory Groups (MACs) across the borough. Membership at the end of March stood at 643.

The AGM was held at All Saints Church on 6 September and attended by 46 Friends, followed by an open forum session with Neil Blackley and Sergeant Sunnee Arhagba of the Parks and Events Police Service.

In terms of governance, during the year two long-standing trustees stood down from the Committee: Claire Elliot who joined in 2003, first as membership secretary and more recently as Thrive representative and much valued member of our *Review* team, and Chris Newbery-Davies who served on the Committee from 1993 and was involved in our work on dogs in the Park, and was a regular judge at the annual dog show run by the police. They both left with our sincere gratitude. Sara Milne, previously co-opted, was elected trustee and Garon Watkins was re-elected as Chairman having served for the permitted three-year term. John Marsh was re-appointed as independent financial examiner for the year ending March 2023. Subsequent to the AGM, we welcomed Miles Kerstein and Julia Camera as co-opted trustees. Miles is a keen advocate for wildlife and Julia works at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

After an absence of two years, we were delighted to be able to hold the Friends' BBQ again in the Childrens' Zoo thanks to our hosts, the Heap family. The tireless enthusiasm of Peta May Law and her team over the years has meant that the event remains ever popular and enjoyed record attendance. As well as being our main fund-raising event of the year it has always been a wonderful opportunity for the Friends' community to enjoy an evening together. This year the event raised £7,505. Friends also gathered in May to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with a party in the Old English Garden organised by Sara Milne, an event that was so well received that another party was planned for the Coronation in May 2023. Our popular lunchtime lecture series led by Annabel Stein and her team also resumed with a presentation in November on Butterflies by Simon Saville from the Centre for Butterfly Conservation, and one in March by Tom Davis from the British Waterfowl Association. Frances Radcliffe led a guided walk for the Wandsworth Heritage Festival on 12 June while the Friends also had stands staffed by volunteers at both Summer at the Bandstand and the Police Dog Show to promote the work of the Friends and attract new members. The Friends were delighted to receive a cheque for £1,520 from the Parks Police representing profits from the show.

The Friends' work in the Park centred primarily on repairs to the Winter Garden. As Friends may recall the garden was heavily impacted by lockdown when it became used as a de facto playground. The damage to the flower beds and plants was so significant that, during his annual inspection paid for by Friends, the designer Dan Pearson advised it was in danger of being lost

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

unless action was taken. Friends worked with Enable to ensure that it was fenced off on a temporary basis, funded volunteer days with Thrive to work on restoration and then subsequently replanted the garden with the cost of the plants being met by the Friends. We are increasingly convinced that the only way to prevent damage in the future is to put down a permanent low fence. Costings have been procured by Enable for fencing similar to that used on the perimeter and costs range from £85,000 to £94,000. While the Friends would be happy to contribute, additional funding sources will be required and we are investigating options. However, we are pleased to report that the topiary yews in the Russell Page Garden have now been restored to their former glory after the Friends funded a specialist firm for this work.

The initiative we established with the Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity (SWSJ) last year for five local state primary schools to undertake educational visits to the Park was very well received and it was suggested that teaching material be produced by a retired teacher so that it is easier for all primary schools to incorporate a visit to the Park within the curriculum. The Friends are very supportive of this and in March provided funding of £3,600 for the development of teaching material for science. Between April and October, our secondary school project with St John Bosco College took place, again overseen by the SWSJ Charity.

The Friends' Committee continue to monitor planning applications around the Park on your behalf and made an ultimately unsuccessful objection to the extension of a wire by Go Ape from their site to support a new plummet activity on its high ropes course. While we are happy for Go Ape to innovate, we believe this was an inappropriate intrusion into designated green space and the sightline of those entering and leaving at the junction of the South and West Carriage Drives. The wire has not as yet been installed.

The Review team produced and distributed three issues of the publication this year and it remains a popular medium of communication to Friends. May I thank on your behalf Frances Radcliffe, the editor, and her team as well as all the Friends who distribute it by hand thus saving substantial and ever-increasing postage costs.

The trustees wholeheartedly thank all those who work in and for The Park for their dedication and support this year, especially the Friends' volunteers who are helping to restore the Winter Garden. May I as Chairman also extend my sincere thanks to the Committee for all the work they do and time they dedicate on our behalf.

Responsibilities

Financial

Charity legislation requires the Trustees to prepare the Statement of Financial Activities for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of that period. In preparing Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them on a consistent basis making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for the safeguarding of the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are required to indicate where the Statement of Financial Activities is prepared other than on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 August 2023 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Garon Watkins
Chairman

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 disclosed 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

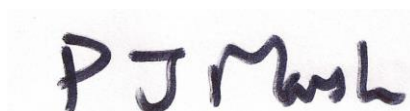
Independent Examiner's Statement

The report appears to be largely consistent with the records presented to me. Last year I had to report that the records were incomplete with respect to debtors and to takings at events. These issues have largely been addressed and, in particular, the events' organisers should be commended on the significant improvements to the recording of cash and other takings at the events.

However, this year, changes have been made with respect to the handling of revenue coming in online and via card readers for subscriptions, events booking and bar and merchandise sales. This has led to incorrect allocation of revenues between those sources in the report although it appears that the gross total is correct. The Treasurer has committed to correct this reporting for the 2023/24 Annual Report.

John Marsh
Groveside Court
4 Lombard Road
London
SW11 3RQ

Signature



16 August 2023

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Incoming resources				
Voluntary income				
Subscriptions	7,860	0	7,860	8,279
Gift Aid HMRC refund	0	0	0	4,172
Miscellaneous donations and Rattle Boxes	3,503	0	3,503	1,948
Activities for generating funds				
Events	13,893	0	13,893	1,983
Advertising	4,915	0	4,915	2,085
Book Sales	92	0	92	320
Stock Sales	335	0	335	101
Investment income				
Bank interest	328	0	328	184
Total incoming resources	30,926	0	30,926	19,074
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Membership Expenses	1,475	0	1,475	999
Review Magazine costs	3,427	0	3,427	2,783
Event expenditure	6,997	0	6,997	681
Postcards	0	0	0	527
Charitable activities				
Investment by FoBP				
TSirhrive	384	0	384	5,376
Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity	6,440	0	6,440	0
Dan Pearson advice	678		678	1,295
Yew clipping	420		420	420
Winter Garden Planting 2022	4,058		4,058	
Winter Garden Planting 2023	4,167		4,167	
Governance Costs				
Professional Services & Fees	684	0	684	800
Insurance	373	0	373	363
Total resources expended	29,103	0	29,103	13,244
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	1,823	0	1,823	5,830
Total bank balances carried forward	77,981	0	77,981	76,155

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Paypal, Deposits & Cash at bank	77,981	0	77,981	76,155
Capital and Reserves				
<i>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</i>	1,826	0	1,826	5,830
Total funds brought forward	76,155	0	76,155	70,335
<hr/>				
<i>Total funds carried forward</i>	77,981	0	77,981	76,155
<hr/>				

Approved by the Trustees of the Friends of Battersea Park on 21 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Garon Watkins
Chairman

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Basis of Preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and with Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 1993.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

Until the 2016/17 accounts the charity had chosen to prepare accrual accounts. However, since the Charity has, in recent years, income between £25,000 and £250,000 the Charity can choose whether to prepare accounts using either receipts and payments accounts or accruals accounts.

Given that the charity has minimal debtors and creditors, for simplification purposes, the charity chose to move to receipts and payments accounts during 2016/17 and so the 2022/23 accounts have been prepared on a cash basis

2. Accounting policies

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has received the resources.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA except for PayPal charges which are separately recorded below under bank charges.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA in the year in which it is received.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. **Accounting policies (continued)**

INCOMING RESOURCES (continued)

Donated services and Facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees annual report.
Bank Charges	As a charity, TSB does not charge us any fees for banking with them. Paypal charges the charity a percentage of what is put through their system, which includes Zettle; in the last year this amounted to £175.53.
Paypal	For 2022/23 it is not possible to correctly allocate payments received by PayPal to their source (eg ticket sales, subscriptions, event sales, books etc) but this will be corrected in the 2023/24 accounts.
Gift Aid	No application for the return of gift aid was made during the 2022/23 financial year, but this task will be carried out on the current financial year.
Investment gains and losses	The charity does not have any investments other than two interest bearing bank accounts.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised on a cash accounting basis meaning we recognise liabilities when we pay them
Governance costs	Include, when applicable, the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity	The Charity has no tangible fixed assets
---	--

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

3 Creditors and accruals

3.1 Analysis of creditors

	This year	Last year
Invoices billed before 31 March 2023 are outstanding.	£0	£0

3.2 Analysis of debtors

Advertising	£550	£2,260
-------------	------	--------

All of the outstanding balance of £2,260 for 2021/22 was received in the 2022/23 financial year.

£400 of the outstanding balance for 2022/23 was received on 4th April 2023 and the remainder of £150 on 16th May

4. Analysis of incoming resources

The analysis of incoming resources is given in the SoFA.

5. Analysis of resources expended

The analysis of resources expended is given in the SoFA.

6. Details of certain items of expenditure

	Trustee expenses Last year	This year
Number of trustees re-imbursed for expenses (Postage, photocopying, stationery, AGM expenses, and other events)	6 1,029	£ 8 5,438

7. Paid employees

There are no paid employees of the charity

8. Grant making

Grants of £6,440 were made by the charity to the Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity, based in Battersea, to deliver educational classes to children from local schools. In lieu of payment for the lectures, contributions of £50 are paid to charities of the speaker's choice.

9. Security over assets

There are no outstanding loans, overdrafts or other creditors of the charity.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

10. Transactions with related parties

10.1 Remuneration and benefits

The charity paid no remuneration or other benefits to any trustees or related parties.

10.2 Loans

The charity had no loans with any trustees or related parties during the year or at the year end.

10.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties.

The charity had no other transactions with the trustees or related parties.