



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

A review of our activities
and achievements, and
our priorities for the year
ahead

The Friends of Ruskin Park (FoRP) has been operating as a community group since 1996. We established a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in 2016.

This annual report relates to the charity's accounting year from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023.

CONTENTS

Our objectives and aims	3
Review of 2022-23	4
Thank you to our contributors	5
Treasurer's report	6
Achievements and priorities	8
Structure, governance and management	12
Appendix: Financial statements	13
Appendix: Independent Examiner's Report	20



“The Friends of Ruskin Park is established to protect and promote the enjoyment of Ruskin Park (a public park situated on Denmark Hill in Camberwell, London) for the benefit, now and in the future, of all park users.”

Our objectives and aims

1. To work collaboratively with Ruskin Park’s managers, Lambeth Council, and other partners to maximise the quality of Ruskin Park, as desired by park users and within available resources.
2. To engage park users and the wider community in maintaining and improving the park for their own health and wellbeing, for now and in the future, balancing different interests.
3. To run, sponsor or support where appropriate 1) events and activities for and with park users and 2) physical improvements that would not otherwise happen.
4. To ensure we have the resources to achieve the above aims – financial, people, communications and governance.



Review of 2022-23

For the past year, FoRP has had two co-chairs - Lucy Hadfield and Kate Malleson. Lucy will be stepping down after 6.5 years in the chair role. Céline Gilbert has kindly offered to step into the role in the short-term while a longer-term replacement is identified.

In 2021-22, we gave a detailed account of that year's many events and activities. This year has been, and next year will be, mainly about solid continuation of these, including our progress in gardening activities, our regular summer events, engaging with Lambeth for the implementation of the capital programme for the park and keeping in financial good health. See pages 8-12 for greater detail of our achievements this year and future intentions.

Our progress has been due to the tremendous contributions of volunteers working for Ruskin Park, in many different areas and ways of expressing themselves. Each one deserves our grateful thanks.

Our intentions are to continue with our efforts. To be successful, we will need more volunteers to come forward to fill key gaps in our committee. Will that be you or someone you know?

Lucy Hadfield
Kate Malleson
Co-Chairs





Thank you to our contributors

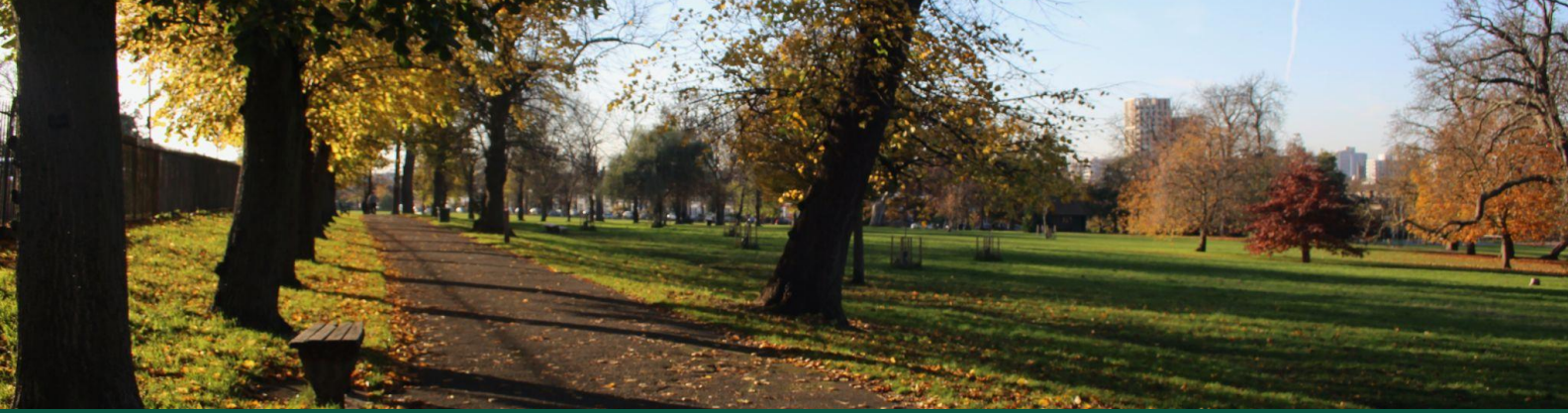
Volunteers

- Trustees
- Committee members
- Gardeners
- Litter pickers
- Paddling pool volunteers
- Events volunteers, performers and partners
- GoodGym volunteers
- Employee volunteering groups

“The work of Friends of Ruskin Park would not be possible without the commitment and passion of our trustees, volunteers and partners.”

Funders, partners and donors

- Regular and one-off donors
- Camberwell Society
- Herne Hill Forum
- Herne Hill Society
- Lambeth Council
- Lambeth Parks Forum
- London Friends of Green Spaces Network
- Myatt’s Fields Park Project
- National Grid
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Petermans
- Postcode Society Trust
- SE5 Forum
- South London Cares
- South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Steel Warriors
- Urban Canopy
- Urban Village



Treasurer's report

As demonstrated in our report, FoRP has been active this year with events, projects and fundraising.

	2022/23			2021/22
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
Income	20,215	49,144	69,359	89,379
Expenditure	(23,318)	(37,213)	(60,531)	(87,314)
Net movement	(3,103)	11,931	8,828	2,065
Balance	39,634	30,723	70,357	61,529

We are very grateful for the generous donations we receive from park users and other supporters, as well as to the bodies that have provided us with grants in the past year.

This year we used the remaining National Lottery grant and the deferred Postcode Society Trust grant for gardening, including improvements and activities in the Willow Garden and Labyrinth Garden. A grant from the National Grid went towards supporting the popular Summer Fete amongst other activities.

Lambeth Council provided a grant which enabled us to put on the bandstand concerts and provide entertainment at the fete.

Treasurer's report (cont.)

We took part in the Aviva Community Fund, which thanks to generous donations being matched by Aviva, was able to raise a substantial amount that will be used for gardening activities.

The general fund is unrestricted and is used to run events and projects in the park over the year. We funded new signage for the portico and sundial as well as making improvements to the rose garden and putting money towards Lambeth's tree planting programme which has seen many new trees planted in the park. We continue to receive donations for memorial benches.

The reserves policy is to hold 6 months operating costs, and the annual costs of providing our regular events and activities for the benefit of new and existing park users. The key spend period is during the months of May to October.

The full financial statements can be found at the end of this report.

Sarah Salter
Treasurer



Achievements and priorities (1)

Volunteering, events and activities

Achievements last year

Future priorities

Community Garden and Willow Garden

Community Garden opened regularly, with good attendance from volunteers, visitors and hospital patients. Bee enclosure successfully refurbished.

Build engagement and recruit more volunteers in the Community Garden for maintenance and growth.

Willow Garden created and named. Space transformed with new beds and seating. Successful weekly activities with SLaM and other groups led by wellbeing gardener.

Secure further funding for the Willow Garden activities.

Park gardening and litter picking

Saturday gardening continued to be well attended, with the Labyrinth Garden well managed including new planting. Litter picking continued well.

Secure further funding for park gardening. Continue planting in the Labyrinth Garden and Rose Garden.

Recruit more volunteers for litter picking.

Affordable workshops and activities in the Hut and park

The main room in the Hut was repainted by volunteers and a National Grid grant used for new furniture and free workshops.

Clarify the process for partners to hire the Hut from Lambeth.

Arrange activities such as tree and bat walks and workshops for children where capacity allows.

Concerts at the Bandstand

Programme was successful, support by grant funding from Lambeth and there were more new bands with greater diversity.

Organise a programme next year. Increase volunteer resilience with new recruits and make it easier to manage.

Achievements and priorities (2)

Volunteering, events and activities

Summer Fete and other seasonal events

Achievements last year

The Summer Fete was another big success.

We also supported SE5 Forum's Feel Good Festival and the Boule d'Or petanque tournament. Street Light Cinema raised funds for FoRP.

Future priorities

Hold the Summer Fete and Dog Show again.

Support a small number of other suitable events.

Park improvements sponsored or managed by FoRP

Rose Garden paving repairs and planting; co-funded planting of 27 new trees; Labyrinth Garden planting and maintenance.

Allocate a budget and prioritise spending on the most beneficial items.

Bench donation scheme has increased in popularity.

Continue bench donation scheme and expand to include tree sponsorship.

Engaging park users with the heritage of the park

Information signage for the Mendelssohn Sundial and the Portico was installed.

Hold the photography competition again.



Achievements and priorities (3)

Projects and partnership working with Lambeth

Achievements last year

Future priorities

Bring the heritage stable block back into use

Funding for the first stage of refurbishment was committed by Lambeth and a potential social enterprise occupier identified. We remain involved in Lambeth's steering group.

For work to start and to see a firm plan from Lambeth to bring the building back into use, with clear community benefits.

Paddling pool

Despite some ongoing technical issues, the pool opened for the season and served large numbers of children, so was successful.

Capture lessons from last year and agree a plan with Lambeth, including any works and building up volunteers.

Opening the disused depot area

The agreement with Lambeth is to open up the depot area and bring it back into the park, at low cost. Some work has happened, but progress is slow.

To have all or most of the area made good enough and opened up back into the park.

Regular liaison with Lambeth Parks

We worked with Lambeth in deploying their capital funds to projects guided by the masterplan. A partner was contracted to design and build a new playground.

Continue to work closely with Lambeth with regular meetings to see projects completed effectively and monitor initiatives by others, including events. Ensure we have volunteers to do this.

We monitored Lambeth's events proposals and gave our opinions on suitability using our own criteria for events in the park.

Identify important improvements that are not worked up yet and funded e.g. dog-free areas, Denmark Hill entrance improvement.

The park was again awarded a Green Flag in September 2023 and a Gold at the London in Bloom awards.

Keep vigilant/positive promotion of the community nature of Ruskin Park.

Achievements and priorities (4)

Charity governance and management

Achievements last year

Future priorities

Funding and finance

We continued to maintain a healthy financial balance. We have been successful in obtaining grants and donations to expand our scope of activities, e.g. gardening sessions.

Maintain good financial control, encourage donations and to take opportunities to bid for specific grant funding, e.g. to support Willow Garden and Saturday gardening, where we can.

Governance and membership

Committee members have worked hard to share the responsibilities for ensuring good governance.

Continue to hold regular committee/trustee meetings and ensure all essential paperwork is compiled and maintained. Have no 'single points of failure'.

Membership numbers have been maintained.

Give better inductions to new committee members.

Increase and diversify FoRP's membership.

Ensure succession planning for key roles. Needs include leads for biodiversity, grant management, bandstand concert organiser and partnership working with Lambeth.

Communications and engagement

Our core communications via newsletter, social media and website have been well maintained. We had a stall at key events and produced and delivered a flyer promoting summer activities in the park.

Maintain core communications and continue to try to engage more park users e.g. by outreach to other local community hubs like schools.

Structure, governance and management

Membership

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in furthering our purposes. The trustees have decided not to charge a membership fee. As of 31st August 2023, FoRP had 399 members.

Governance

We are governed by a constitution adopted in March 2016 and approved by the Charity Commission in April 2016. This can be viewed on our website.



Trustees

We have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 11 trustees. They are appointed at our AGM, with a third standing down or being re-appointed each year. At other times the existing trustees may appoint trustees until the next AGM. The following people were trustees during 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023:

Lucy Hadfield	Co-Chair
Kate Malleson	Co-Chair
Jared Cotton	Resigned 17/01/2023
Celine Gilbert	
Mandy Millward	
Chris Norris	
Sarah Salter	Appointed 17/01/2023
Deepak Sardiwal	Resigned 31/10/2022
Andrew Ruck	Resigned 02/07/2023
Michelle Warbis	Resigned 03/06/2023

Committee

Additional committee members are appointed by the trustees to assist with the management of our activities. This year they included Andrea Woodside, Charles Murphy, Claire Vinycomb, Jemima Ashdown, Julie Simpson and Kathy Erasmus.

Friends of Ruskin Park

Registered Charity number 1166358

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Friends Of Ruskin Park
Accounts for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Charity Name Friends of Ruskin Park

Working Name FORP

Charity Number 1166358

Registered Office 84 Ferndene Road
LONDON
SE24 0AA

<u>Board of Trustees</u>		Appointed	Resigned
Lucy Hadfield (Co-Chair)		01/06/2017	
Kate Malleson (Co-Chair)		12/01/2021	
Sarah Salter (Treasurer)		23/01/2023	
Jared Cotton (Treasurer)		14/07/2021	17/01/2023
Celine Gilbert		25/05/2022	
Katherine Amanda Millward		12/01/2021	
Christopher Norris		01/09/2016	
Deepak Sardiwal		15/05/2021	31/10/2022
Andrew Ruck		05/07/2022	02/07/2023
Michelle Warbis		14/07/2021	03/06/2023

Independent Accountant Crest Accounting Ltd, 49 Verdayne Avenue, Shirley, Croydon. CR0 8TW.

Bank Lloyds Bank PLC

Friends of Ruskin Park
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

	Unrestricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2023 £	Restricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2022 £
Incoming Resources (Note 3)				
Donations/Grants	11,790	49,144	60,934	80,176
Events	6,870	0	6,870	8,843
Interest/other	565	0	565	360
Gift Aid	990	0	990	0
Total incoming resources	<u>20,215</u>	<u>49,144</u>	<u>69,359</u>	<u>89,379</u>
Costs of Providing Charitable Activities (Note 4)				
Cost of providing Charitable Activities	2,620	0	2,620	464
Charitable Activities	20,698	37,213	57,911	86,850
Total Resources expended	<u>23,318</u>	<u>37,213</u>	<u>60,531</u>	<u>87,314</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>(3,103)</u>	<u>11,931</u>	<u>8,828</u>	<u>2,065</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	<u>42,737</u>	<u>18,792</u>	<u>61,529</u>	<u>59,464</u>
Total Funds carried forward	<u>39,634</u>	<u>30,723</u>	<u>70,357</u>	<u>61,529</u>

Friends of Ruskin Park
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2023

		£	£
Fixed Assets	(Note 5)	0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors		5,000	6,192
Cash at bank and in hand		69,373	79,490
Total Current assets		<u>74,373</u>	<u>85,682</u>
Creditors falling due within one year	(Note 6)	(4,016)	(694)
Prepaid Income		0	(23,459)
Net Assets		<u>70,357</u>	<u>61,529</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		39,634	42,737
Restricted Funds	(Note 7)	30,723	18,792
Total Funds		<u>70,357</u>	<u>61,529</u>

Chair

Date:

Friends of Ruskin Park
Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Grants and donations are included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources and incoming resources from tax reclaims are included at the same time as the gift to which they relate. Investment income is included when receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its members. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are directly allocated.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost useful life as follows:-

Computer equipment - 33.33% straight line basis

Fixtures & Fittings - 33.33% straight line basis

Friends of Ruskin Park

Note 2: Trustees Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in the 12 month period ended

Note 3: Analysis of incoming resources

	Total Funds
	12 month period to
	31st August 2023
	£
<i>Voluntary income:</i>	
Unrestricted donations/income	19,020
Restricted donations/grants	49,144
Gift Aid	990
<i>Investment income:</i>	
Bank Interest	205
Total	<u>69,359</u>

Note 4: Analysis of costs of providing charitable activities

	12 month period to
	31st August 2023
	£
AGM	168
Fundraising	1,162
Admin/Insurance	750
Database/IT Support	190
Governance	350
Total	<u>2,620</u>

Note 5 Fixed assets

No assets are owned by the charity

Note 6 : analysis of Creditors

Accruals	<u>4,016</u>
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Note 7: Analysis of Restricted Funds

Balance B/F	18,792
Donations/Grants	<u>49,144</u>
Expenditure	(37,213)
Balance C/F	<u>30,723</u>

Friends of Ruskin Park
Profit and Loss for the year to 31st August 2023

<u>Turnover</u>	<u>£</u>
Donations/Grants	60,934
Events	6,870
Interest/other	565
Gift Aid	990
TOTAL TURNOVER	<u>69,359</u>
<u>Costs</u>	
General Admin	554
Fundraising	1,162
IT Costs	190
Charitable Activities	57,911
Legal & Governance	714
TOTAL COSTS	<u>60,531</u>
<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u><u>8,828</u></u>



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

FRIENDS OF RUSKIN PARK (FORP)

On accounts for the year
ended

31 AUGUST 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1166358

Set out on pages

1 to 7

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 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 Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

Signed:

Date:

14/12/2023

Name:

Patricia Jane Ward

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCMA, CGMA, MiP.

Address:

49 Verdayne Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 8TW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the user to provide details as requested in the text above.