



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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 2023 to 31st August 2024.

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

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 2023-24

Kate Malleson and Céline Gilbert lead FoRP as co-chairs.

FoRP's programme this year was designed to build on progress in 2022-23. It included working with Lambeth to complete the capital programme for the park, culminating in the successful opening of the redeveloped playground. Our gardening activities enjoyed high levels of engagement and we secured grant funding to support this work over the next five years. Keeping the paddling pool open was a significant achievement and we ran a full programme of summer events. See pages 8-11 for greater detail of our achievements this year and future priorities.

Progress would not be possible without the tremendous contributions of volunteers working for Ruskin Park in so many different ways across all of our activities. Each one deserves our grateful thanks.

Although FoRP has a strong volunteer base, we face challenges as long-serving trustees step down. To run our current range of activities and develop new ones, we need to recruit new committee members. We encourage anyone who loves the park to join our committee to help us improve it for current and future generations.

**Kate Malleson and Céline Gilbert
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

We would like to pay particular tribute to Suzanne Vincent of Urban Village for her tireless work and financial support over many years to help keep the paddling pool open. Thank you!

Funders, partners and donors

- Regular and one-off donors
- Aviva Community Fund
- Camberwell Society
- City Bridge Foundation
- Herne Hill Forum
- Herne Hill Society
- Hunters
- Lambeth Council
- Lambeth Parks Forum
- London Friends of Green Spaces Network
- Myatt's Fields Park Project
- National Grid
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Postcode Society Trust
- SE5 Forum
- 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.

	2023/24			2022/23
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
Income	18,360	12,324	30,684	69,359
Expenditure	(23,155)	(27,730)	(50,885)	(60,531)
Net movement	(4,795)	(15,406)	(20,201)	8,828
Balance	34,839	15,317	50,156	70,357

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 secured a five year grant from the City Bridge Foundation to support our gardening activities, including improvements and activities in the Willow, Labyrinth and Community gardens. This will allow us to take a longer-term approach to funding activities. Funding from the Aviva Community Fund also supported park gardening.

In addition to planned spending from these restricted funds, we used money raised from the paddling pool appeals for improvements and repairs over the summer, allowing the pool to remain open.

Treasurer's report (cont.)

We continue to retain funds for maintenance/repairs to the pool as needed.

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

The general fund is unrestricted and is used to run events and projects in the park over the year. We funded improvements to the Rose garden and funded new benches at the Denmark Hill and Ferndene Road entrances. We also continue to receive donations for memorial benches and tree sponsorship.

The reserves policy is to hold 6 months of operating costs, as well as 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. This year we have focused on reducing our general fund to the level required under our reserves policy by prioritising and allocating funds to park improvements and this will continue to be a focus in the next financial year.

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

Sarah Salter
Treasurer



Achievements and priorities (1)

Volunteering, events and activities

Community and Willow gardens

Achievements

Our Community garden had high levels of engagement this year, with many volunteers becoming regular attenders and an increased sense of community.

Three groups use the Willow garden with guidance from a professional gardener, including supporting the groups to work independently. A City Bridge Foundation grant secures the project in the longer term.

Future priorities

We will need to become more self-sufficient in growing our own seeds this year. This is an opportunity to be more strategic about what we grow.

Our gardener will help the existing groups to become more self-guided. We will work to identify other groups that would benefit from access to therapeutic sessions in the garden.

Park gardening and litter picking

The City Bridge Foundation grant secures Saturday gardening in the Labyrinth garden in the longer term. Working with Urban Canopy, we started to install metal edging around the beds and added new plants. Volunteers planted new roses and lavender in the rose garden.

Regular litter picking continued throughout the year with a core team of volunteers.

Complete edging project in the Labyrinth garden and continue maintenance and planting.

Work with Lambeth to organise volunteering sessions in the Wildlife garden.

We need to recruit a new lead volunteer for litter picking.

Concerts at the bandstand

We ran a full programme of well attended concerts, supported by grant funding from Lambeth, including bands who had not performed previously.

Organise a concert programme next year.

Recruit a new team of volunteers to organise and manage the concerts as the existing leads step down.

Achievements and priorities (2)

Volunteering, events and activities

Summer Fete and other seasonal events

Achievements

The Summer Fete was successful despite inclement weather.

We supported SE5 Forum's Feel Good Festival and the Boule d'Or petanque tournament.

We held gardening workshops at the Fete and the Feel Good Festival.

Future priorities

Hold the Summer Fete and consider holding a Dog Show.

Support a small number of other suitable events.

Park improvements sponsored or managed by FoRP

FoRP invested in new planting in the Labyrinth garden and sponsored 3 benches this year to supplement bench donations.

Two chess tables are now in place for community use.

Improve maps and notice boards reflecting park developments.

Continue to fund planting priorities and supplement individual bench and tree donations.

Engaging park users with the heritage of the park

We held a photography competition with the theme "Lights, Camera, Action".

Consider how to help preserve the heritage bandstand and work with Lambeth on plans to redevelop the Coach House as a community asset.

Bring the heritage Coach House back into use

We continued to work with Lambeth to restore and revitalise the historic Coach House, creating a publicly accessible, sustainably managed asset.

To remain an active voice on the Coach House steering committee, engaging with potential partners for the space and funding opportunities as appropriate.

Achievements and priorities (3)

Projects and partnership working with Lambeth

Achievements

Future priorities

Paddling pool

The paddling pool opened successfully again over the summer, with high levels of volunteer support, despite challenges inherent in maintaining a 1920s era structure.

Agree ways of working with Lambeth more formally to ensure the pool can operate again next year.

Recruit new lead volunteers to replace those stepping down.

Opening the disused depot area

The depot area has been opened up to allow access.

To continue to work with Lambeth on their plans.

Regular liaison with Lambeth Parks

We worked closely with Lambeth to finalise the completion of the playground redevelopment and have continued to liaise closely on proposals that affect the park, particularly in light of current financial constraints.

Continue to liaise with Lambeth through regular meetings to see projects completed effectively and monitor proposals and initiatives by others that impact the park, including events. There will be a focus on plans to redevelop the sports pitches/redgra area and depot.

The park was again awarded a Green Flag in July 2024 and a Gold at the London in Bloom awards.

Identify important improvements and work with Lambeth to deliver awaited repairs to pathways and potholes.

Funding and finance

We continued to maintain a healthy financial balance. We obtained a significant grant allowing us to expand our activities, e.g. gardening sessions over a five year period.

Maintain good financial control, operate in accordance with our reserves policy, and bid for specific grant funding where appropriate to do so in light of overall financial position.

Achievements and priorities (4)

Charity governance and management

Governance and membership

Achievements

Trustees and non-trustee committee members held regular meetings throughout the year to review activities, priorities and risks.

We implemented an induction pack for new committee members to ensure an appropriate understanding of FoRP's objectives, policies and controls.

Membership numbers have been maintained, with 378 members at year end.

Future priorities

Our co-chairs remain in place, ensuring stability of leadership. Continue to hold regular committee/trustee meetings and ensure all essential paperwork is compiled and maintained.

To ensure we can run our existing range of activities and develop new ones we need to recruit new committee members.

Recruit trustees to ensure succession planning for key roles as two long-standing trustees step down and hand over responsibilities..

Communications and engagement

We have continued to communicate with the membership and park users through newsletters, social media and notices.

Maintain core communications and continue to try to engage more park users e.g. by more extensive use of social media to promote activities and generate new volunteers and participants for activities such as the community garden.



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 2024, FoRP had 378 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 2023 to 31st August 2024:

Kate Malleson	Co-Chair
Céline Gilbert	Co-Chair
Joanna Broadbent	Appointed 16.1.24
Lucy Hadfield	
Mandy Millward	
Chris Norris	
Sarah Salter	

Committee

Additional committee members are appointed by the trustees to assist with the management of our activities. This year they included Jemima Ashdown, Diamond Ashiagbor, Kathy Erasmus, Abimbola Oke, Kay O'Neill, Sara Robertson-Jonas, Julie Simpson and Claire Vinycomb.

Friends of Ruskin Park

Registered Charity number 1166358

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

Friends Of Ruskin Park
Accounts for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Charity Name Friends of Ruskin Park

Working Name FORP

Charity Number 1166358

Registered Office 17 De Crespigny Park
London
SE5 8AB

<u>Board of Trustees</u>		Appointed	Resigned
	Lucy Hadfield	01/06/2017	
	Kate Malleson (Co-Chair)	12/01/2021	
	Sarah Salter (Treasurer)	23/01/2023	
	Celine Gilbert (Co-Chair)	25/05/2022	
	Katherine Amanda Millward	12/01/2021	
	Christopher Norris	01/09/2016	
	Joanna Broadbent	16/01/2024	

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 2023 to 31st August 2024

	Unrestricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2024 £	Restricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2023 £
Incoming Resources (Note 3)				
Donations/Grants	9,390	12,324	21,714	60,934
Events	6,683		6,683	6,870
Interest/other	1,426		1,426	565
Gift Aid	861		861	990
Total incoming resources	<u>18,360</u>	<u>12,324</u>	<u>30,684</u>	<u>69,359</u>
Costs of Providing Charitable Activities (Note 4)				
Cost of providing Charitable Activities	1,897		1,897	2,620
Charitable Activities	21,258	27,730	48,988	57,911
Total Resources expended	<u>23,155</u>	<u>27,730</u>	<u>50,885</u>	<u>60,531</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>(4,795)</u>	<u>(15,406)</u>	<u>(20,201)</u>	<u>8,828</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	<u>39,634</u>	<u>30,723</u>	<u>70,357</u>	<u>61,529</u>
Total Funds carried forward	<u>34,839</u>	<u>15,317</u>	<u>50,156</u>	<u>70,357</u>

**Friends of Ruskin Park
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024**

		At 31st August 2024	At 31st August 2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets	(Note 5)	0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors		5,615	5,000
Cash at bank and in hand		58,607	69,373
Total Current assets		<u>64,222</u>	<u>74,373</u>
Creditors falling due within one year	(Note 6)	(14,066)	(4,016)
Prepaid Income		0	0
Net Assets		<u>50,156</u>	<u>70,357</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		34,839	39,634
Restricted Funds	(Note 7)	15,317	30,723
Total Funds		<u>50,156</u>	<u>70,357</u>

Chair

K. Muth

Date:

30/11/2025

**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. Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included at the same time as they are received. 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 31st August 2024

Note 3: Analysis of incoming resources

	Total Funds 12 month period to 31st August 2024 £
<i>Voluntary income:</i>	
Unrestricted donations/income	16,073
Restricted donations/grants	12,324
Gift Aid	861
<i>Investment income:</i>	
Bank Interest	1,066
Other Income	360
Total	<u>30,684</u>

Note 4: Analysis of costs of providing charitable activities

	12 month period to 31st August 2024 £
AGM	255
Fundraising	751
Admin/Insurance	463
Database/IT Support	78
Governance	350
Total	<u>1,897</u>

Note 5 Fixed assets

No assets are owned by the charity

Note 6 : analysis of Creditors

Accruals	<u>14,066</u>
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Note 7: Analysis of Restricted Funds

Balance B/F	30,723
Donations/Grants	<u>12,324</u>
Expenditure	(27,730)
Balance C/F	<u>15,317</u>

Friends of Ruskin Park
Profit and Loss for the year to 31st August 2024

<u>Turnover</u>	<u>£</u>
Donations/Grants	21,714
Events	6,683
Interest/other	1,426
Gift Aid	861
TOTAL TURNOVER	<u>30,684</u>
<u>Costs</u>	
General Admin	255
Fundraising	751
IT Costs	78
Charitable Activities	48,988
Legal & Governance	813
TOTAL COSTS	<u>50,885</u>
<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u><u>-20,201</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 2024

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:

06/02/2025

Name:

Patricia Jane Ward

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

FCMA, CGMA, MiP.

Address:

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