



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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 2024 to 31st August 2025.

Contents

Our objectives and aims	3
Review of 2024-25	4
Thank you to our contributors	5
Treasurer's report	6-7
Achievements and priorities	8-11
Structure, governance and management	12
Appendix: Financial statements	
Appendix: Independent examiner's report	



“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 2024-25

2024-25 was a year of transition for FoRP, as long-serving trustees and committee members stepped down, with our grateful thanks for their dedication over the years. We recruited a new trustee and continue to encourage volunteers to join the committee to help deliver FoRP's core activities.

We made progress in many areas. Gardening activities remain an important focus, supported by our City Bridge Foundation funding. We recruited a new gardener to support community groups in the Willow Garden and maintained fortnightly gardening sessions in the Labyrinth Garden. The Community Garden Saturday sessions are increasingly well attended, with several new regular volunteers.

FoRP volunteers worked tirelessly to keep the paddling pool open during a hot, dry summer. We ran a full bandstand programme over the summer and autumn, as well as our popular summer fete, reflecting our commitment to providing events that are open to all. Our playground "little library" is a much-loved and well-used resource for local families.

We continue to work in partnership with Lambeth to support and develop our park at a time of financial constraint.

Kate Malleson and Céline Gilbert
Co-Chairs





Volunteers

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

Additional thanks go to Rupert Maas, Max Pappenheim and Claire Summers for their work on the paddling pool, to Liv Chester for her work on the community orchard, and to Maddalena Amato for her contribution to the Rose Garden this year.

Above all, we pay tribute to Julie Simpson for her many years of service to FoRP and her role in organising/ managing the Summer Fete - a huge commitment which she has carried out with dedication and apparently effortlessly, although we know that's not the case.

Thank yous

Funders, partners and donors

- Regular and one-off donors
- Aviva Community Fund
- Camberwell Society
- City Bridge Foundation
- Community Sauna Baths
- Herne Hill Forum
- Herne Hill Society
- Lambeth Council
- Lambeth Parks Forum
- London Friends of Green Spaces Network
- Myatt's Fields Park Project
- 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.

	2024/25			2023/24
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
Income	24,244	23,452	47,696	30,684
Expenditure	(24,052)	(22,591)	(46,643)	(50,885)
Net movement	192	861	1,053	(20,201)
Balance	35,031	16,178	51,209	50,156

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.

Our funding from the City Bridge Foundation allowed us to continue to run our fortnightly park gardening sessions, led by Urban Canopy, in the Labyrinth Garden, and to engage a gardener to support groups in the Willow Garden. This funding allows us to continue this work in the medium term. We were also able to complete the edging project in the Labyrinth Garden, with an additional contribution from our general funds.

A grant from Lambeth Council again allowed us to run a successful bandstand concert programme over the summer and autumn.

Treasurer's report (cont.)

The paddling pool remained open during the hot summer months, with financial support from our paddling pool fund. We continue to hold a substantial balance in the fund to allow us to undertake any essential maintenance work that might be necessary. FoRP made a contribution from its general funds to buy replacement picnic tables for the paddling pool area, which are ready to be installed.

Other significant purchases from general funds included the “little library” by the playground, which we are committed to maintaining and stocking with children’s books as needed. We also ran several volunteer workshops and provided funds for planting carried out by corporate volunteers. The summer fete, on one of the hottest days of the year, was very successful thanks to the efforts of our organiser and volunteers.

Our reserves policy continues to be to hold 6 months of operating costs and the annual costs of providing regular events and activities. We continue to focus on reducing our general fund to the level required under our reserves policy. This year we made a small surplus but we continue to prioritise allocating funds to park improvements. Our key challenge in this respect is capacity amongst the existing committee to identify and manage suitable new projects.

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

Jo Broadbent
Treasurer



Achievements and priorities (1)

Volunteering, events and activities

	Achievements	Future priorities
Community and Willow Gardens	<p>Our Community Garden continued to have high levels of engagement this year. We transitioned to growing plants from seeds and were more strategic about our planting.</p> <p>The Willow Garden supported existing groups in partnership with South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and worked with Urban Canopy and King's to facilitate a healthy eating project for young gardeners, including a pollinator workshop.</p>	<p>Work with Lambeth to re-establish water supply to the Gardens and areas of the park as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Expand the Community Garden committee to maintain weekly opening and refine our cropping plan in light of our experience last year.</p> <p>Maintain our work with existing groups and any new groups who may benefit from access to therapeutic sessions in the garden as opportunities arise.</p>
Park gardening and litter picking	<p>Our volunteers, working with Urban Canopy, finished the edging project in the Labyrinth Garden and continue to maintain the space.</p> <p>We worked with Lambeth Council to run two sessions to maintain the wildlife garden and pond. A core volunteer team provided regular litter picking throughout the year.</p>	<p>Plant bulbs and perennials and restore areas of grass within the Labyrinth Garden.</p> <p>Seek funding for a new project to maintain and develop the community orchard outside the sauna area.</p>
Concerts at the bandstand	<p>A new team organised and ran a full programme of enjoyable concerts, supported by grant funding from Lambeth.</p>	<p>Organise a concert programme next year, subject to the availability of grant funding.</p>

Achievements and priorities (2)

Volunteering, events and activities

	Achievements	Future priorities
Summer Fete and other seasonal events	<p>The Summer Fete was very successful. We ran a gardening workshop aimed at children and families during the Fete, as well as a half term family workshop in the Willow Garden and supported the Boule d'Or petanque tournament.</p>	<p>Encourage volunteers outside the core committee to be involved in organising the Summer Fete.</p> <p>Support a small number of other suitable events, including a foraging workshop and a seasonal event for volunteers in December.</p>
Park improvements sponsored or managed by FoRP	<p>FoRP continued to support the tree and bench donation programme this year, funded trees for the community orchard by the sauna, and launched outdoor chess tables in March.</p> <p>We paid for and planted new roses for the Rose Garden and installed a "little library", predominantly for children's books, outside the playground.</p>	<p>Improving maps and notice boards remains a priority.</p> <p>FoRP has funded new picnic tables for the paddling pool area and these should be installed this year. We will continue to source and fund donations of children's books to the "little library".</p> <p>A new FoRP project will focus on how to improve biodiversity within the park.</p>
Engaging park users with the heritage of the park	<p>We continue to discuss work needed to preserve the heritage bandstand and the portico with Lambeth.</p>	<p>Organise a volunteer day with Lambeth to repaint areas of the bandstand and continue to press for repairs to the poor condition of the portico.</p>
Bring the heritage Coach House back into use	<p>We continued to work with Lambeth to restore and revitalise the historic Coach House, creating a publicly accessible, sustainably managed asset.</p>	<p>Remain an active voice on the Coach House steering committee, engaging with potential partners for the space and funding opportunities as appropriate.</p>

Achievements and priorities (3)

Projects and partnership working with Lambeth

Achievements

Future priorities

Paddling pool

A team of volunteers worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances to keep our historic paddling pool open. The hot, dry summer emphasised what an asset the pool is to our community.

Ensure more consistent lines of communication and support through Lambeth's facilities management contracts to ensure the pool's future. Ensure volunteers feel properly supported in and valued for their work with the paddling pool.

Opening the disused depot area

The community sauna is open in the old depot area and we have a good working relationship with the sauna team. FoRP volunteers worked with Lambeth to plant a new community orchard outside the sauna area.

Obtain funding for a regular education and maintenance programme for the community orchard over the next two years, to develop and enhance the public space outside the sauna.

Regular liaison with Lambeth Parks

We have liaised closely with Lambeth during the year, particularly in light of current financial constraints.

The park retained its Green Flag and its Gold London in Bloom award.

Continue to liaise with Lambeth through regular meetings to monitor projects and proposals that impact the park, including events.

Continue to press Lambeth to restore the water supply to the kiosk/ toilets/ Willow and Community Gardens.

Plans to redevelop the sports pitches/ redgra area were delayed but we will remain involved in responding to any proposals.

Achievements and priorities (4)

Charity governance and management

	Achievements	Future priorities
Governance and membership	<p>Trustees and non-trustee committee members held regular meetings throughout the year to review activities, priorities and risks.</p> <p>We held a detailed review of the paddling pool operation alongside Lambeth and implemented recommendations before the paddling pool opened for the season.</p> <p>Our membership numbers remain stable.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>To ensure we can run our existing range of activities and develop new ones we continue to need new main committee members.</p> <p>Build resilience by recruiting new members for a Summer Fete committee and to the Community Garden committee.</p>
Funding and finance	<p>We continued to maintain a healthy financial balance. We are in the second year of our five year City Bridge Foundation funding, which gives gardening activities stability in the medium-term.</p>	<p>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 our overall financial position.</p> <p>Apply for funding for the community orchard project.</p>
Communications and engagement	<p>We have continued to communicate with the membership and park users through newsletters, social media and notices.</p>	<p>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 Labyrinth Garden sessions.</p>

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 2025, FoRP had 363 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 2024 to 31st August 2025:

Kate Malleson	Co-Chair
Céline Gilbert	Co-Chair
Jemima Ashdown	Appointed 05.03.25
Joanna Broadbent	
Lucy Hadfield	Resigned 05.03.25
Mandy Millward	
Chris Norris	Resigned 05.03.25
Sarah Salter	

Committee

Additional committee members are appointed by the trustees to assist with the management of our activities. This year they included Kathy Erasmus, Abimbola Oke, Kay O'Neill, Sara Robertson-Jonas, Julie Simpson and Claire Vinycomb. Lucy Hadfield and Chris Norris continued to be active members of the committee following their retirement as trustees.

Friends of Ruskin Park

Registered Charity number 1166358

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

Friends Of Ruskin Park
Accounts for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

<u>Charity Name</u>	Friends of Ruskin Park		
<u>Working Name</u>	FORP		
<u>Charity Number</u>	1166358		
<u>Registered Office</u>	17 De Crespigny Park London SE5 8AB		
<u>Board of Trustees</u>		Appointed	Resigned
	Lucy Hadfield	01/06/2017	05/03/2025
	Kate Malleson (Co-Chair)	12/01/2021	
	Sarah Salter (Treasurer till 5/3/25)	23/01/2023	
	Celine Gilbert (Co-Chair)	25/05/2022	
	Katherine Amanda Millward	12/01/2021	
	Christopher Norris	01/09/2016	05/03/2025
	Joanna Broadbent (Treasurer from 5/3/25)	16/01/2024	
	Jemima Ashdown	05/03/2025	
<u>Independent Accountant</u>	Crest Accounting Ltd, 49 Verdayne Avenue, Shirley, Croydon. CR0 8TW.		
<u>Bank</u>	Lloyds Bank PLC		

Friends of Ruskin Park
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

	Unrestricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2025 £	Restricted Funds Period Ended 31st August 2025 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2025 £	TOTAL FUNDS Period Ended 31st August 2024 £
Incoming Resources (Note 3)				
Donations/Grants	10,538	23,452	33,990	21,714
Events	8,124		8,124	6,683
Interest/other	2,741		2,741	1,426
Gift Aid	2,841		2,841	861
Total incoming resources	<u>24,244</u>	<u>23,452</u>	<u>47,696</u>	<u>30,684</u>
Costs of Providing Charitable Activities (Note 4)				
Cost of providing Charitable Activities	1,744		1,744	1,897
Charitable Activities	22,308	22,591	44,899	48,988
Total Resources expended	<u>24,052</u>	<u>22,591</u>	<u>46,643</u>	<u>50,885</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>192</u>	<u>861</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>(20,201)</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	<u>34,839</u>	<u>15,317</u>	<u>50,156</u>	<u>70,357</u>
Total Funds carried forward	<u>35,031</u>	<u>16,178</u>	<u>51,209</u>	<u>50,156</u>

Friends of Ruskin Park
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2025

		At 31st August 2025	At 31st August 2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets	(Note 5)	0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors		4,443	5,615
Cash at bank and in hand		54,423	58,607
Total Current assets		<u>58,866</u>	<u>64,222</u>
Creditors falling due within one year	(Note 6)	(7,657)	(14,066)
Prepaid Income		0	0
Net Assets		<u>51,209</u>	<u>50,156</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		35,031	34,839
Restricted Funds	(Note 7)	16,178	15,317
Total Funds		<u>51,209</u>	<u>50,156</u>

Chair



Date:

18/11/25

**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

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 2025

Note 3: Analysis of incoming resources

	Total Funds 12 month period to 31st August 2025 £
<i>Voluntary income:</i>	
Unrestricted donations/income	18,662
Restricted donations/grants	23,452
Gift Aid	2,841
<i>Investment income:</i>	
Bank Interest	1,781
Other Income	960
Total	<u>47,696</u>

Note 4: Analysis of costs of providing charitable activities

	12 month period to 31st August 2025 £
AGM	463
Fundraising	397
Admin/Insurance	265
Database/IT Support	269
Governance	350
Total	<u>1,744</u>

Note 5 Fixed assets

No assets are owned by the charity

Note 6 : analysis of Creditors

Accruals	6,847
Accounts Payable	<u>810</u>
	<u>7,657</u>

Note 7: Analysis of Restricted Funds

Balance B/F	15,317
Donations/Grants	<u>23,452</u>
	38,769
Expenditure	(22,591)
Balance C/F	<u>16,178</u>

Friends of Ruskin Park
Profit and Loss for the year to 31st August 2025

<u>Turnover</u>	<u>£</u>
Donations/Grants	33,990
Events	8,124
Interest/other	2,741
Gift Aid	<u>2,841</u>
TOTAL TURNOVER	<u>47,696</u>
<u>Costs</u>	
General Admin	728
Fundraising	397
IT Costs	269
Charitable Activities	44,899
Legal & Governance	<u>350</u>
TOTAL COSTS	<u>46,643</u>
<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u>1,053</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 2025

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:

31.10.2025

Name:

Patricia Jane Ward

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

FCMA, CGMA, MiP.

Address:

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

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 to its left.