

# *friends of* **BISHOP'S PARK**



**Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bishops Park at  
The Palace Gardener on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at  
6.00pm**

## **Present**

Rowena Vaughan – Chair  
Sarah Jane Johnson – Secretary  
Catriona Rooney – Membership Secretary  
Alex Laird  
Harriet Lewis  
Victor Ho  
Roger Weston  
Angela Fane

## **Welcome by Chairman Rowena Vaughan**

## **Apologies**

Christopher and Lisa Miers  
Bobbie Travis  
Carol Rance  
Jane Swithinbank  
Sharon Holder  
PC Craig Bracegirdle  
Tommaso Ponsele – Treasurer

## **Minutes of previous AGM 7.10.2021**

Proposed by Roger Weston. Seconded by Alex Laird. Approved.

## **Chairman's Report (Rowena Vaughan)**

This past year has been another year of change and uncertainty weather-wise. It has seen the Park flourish and suffer with even more users. We

have received many messages showing appreciation of its many differing areas and amenities. And obviously also criticism of the perennial issues of cyclists, lack of grass, non-working fountains in the children's paddling area and drinking fountain, breakages and litter. With the popularity of the park, and this year's long dry summer some of the grassy areas need time to recover.

The previous environmentally unfriendly, difficult to repair tarmac on the path by the river has been replaced with a new CEDEC impacted gravel system, which is better for the trees, easier to repair and is more attractive.

The Coade stone balustrade around the pond was repaired this summer and there are still a few other areas that need attention. The paddling pool waterspouts finally started working towards the end of August for 2 weeks and then the hosepipe ban came into force. The hottest summer on record and no spout, frustratingly all due to a small and minor part that was needed for the pump.

New lighting was installed along the riverside path.

Proud sporters of the Friends of Bishops Park hi-vis jackets, the **Litter Pickers** and **Gardening Group** have been busy, supported and sponsored by ID Verde and event organisers Red 14 Ltd. Both pickers and gardeners communicate via WhatsApp and have done a wonderful job in the park.

The **Gardening Group** has continued its work predominantly in three areas: the Rose Garden, the triangular bed near Putney Bridge and the Moat Garden –identified to us by the park users and the Council as the areas in most need of attention. Thank you to all those who have turned up come rain or shine. I know that everyone is very appreciative of your efforts. Also, our thanks to members and others, who have donated plants to our Park including, but not limited to, Claire Mee, Susan Holder, Jackie Tyrie and Angela Fane.

Other areas of note:

- The Moat Garden: Any works to the area have been put on hold until the water supply report has been completed and the water confirmed as clean. We are waiting on the Council for this report. Once done we will begin formalizing the plans. We are hoping to involve local schools, All Saints and Fulham School in any future

activities. We have also had a couple of corporate volunteer workdays in the Moat Garden when new whips were planted and railings painted.

- The summer party was a small affair, unfortunately it clashed with a larger event at Fulham Palace – we will know for the future to check dates! Still a successful event and a lovely way to say thank you to all our volunteers. The food provided by the Tea House was most delicious and plentiful.
  
- Our most successful initiative this year has been the provision of Duck Food – which we buy, bag and sell to the Tea House for children to feed the wildlife around the pond. The bags are bought with increasing rapidity and are proving to be a small but effective way of raising funds.
  
- Fulham Football Club
  - Have not proceeded with their plan to build a pier for new ferry access.
  - The stadium is scheduled to be completed next year and we are waiting to review the finalized plans for the landscaping in the park.
  - The new stand structure is almost complete, although there is a lot of internal work to be done. The new planning permission includes a new riverside path which will be open to the public on non-match days. The stand is to include a health club and a hotel. These particular facilities are not due to be ready until the summer of 2024 at the earliest.
  
- The Tea House has proved to be a supportive member of the local community and of the Friends and we are looking to build more links with other businesses.
  
- There have been several company volunteer days, which we have facilitated, with Id Verde and the Council providing the hardware and oversight. This is essential to our work of encouraging new

stakeholders and encouraging more people to become involved and to provide opportunities to grow the Friends.

- Through our website, quarterly newsletters, Facebook page and growing Instagram profile – we now have 1336 followers - and a new LinkedIn profile, we aim to keep you, and others, up to date with relevant news.
- A tree was planted on the island in the pond to celebrate the Queen's Green Canopy or Treebilee for 2022.

### **For the future**

We are in discussions about updating the bins in the park. Many are falling apart and most are not large enough for the amount of waste that is generated. We cannot replace them all but there are some that are more dilapidated than others, and more provision for recycling should be made.

Some consideration should be given to the accession of King Charles III in May and what, if anything, do we wish to do to celebrate this?

The Friends are looking at repairing, re-edging, and replanting the lavender/rose beds behind the Tea House.

Taylor's bulbs have restarted their initiative of donating bulbs to public spaces. An application has been submitted for free bulbs for the park.

### **Membership Report (Catriona Rooney)**

Current total of 108 members; an increase of 13 from last year.

### **Treasurer's Report (Rowena Vaughan for Tommaso Ponsele)**

2021 was a positive year for our top line with 2069 pounds worth of receipts vs 731 for 2020.

In 2021 we notably raised funds from the Christmas carols evening in December '21, from higher book sales (compared to a very light covid lockdown impacted 2020), and higher subscription collection at over £1k vs 685 in 2020.

Our book sales came in at a positive 450 for the period, against printing cost of 850 as we built up inventory that continues to be sold in 2022.

On balance we close the year with a 557 surplus that brought our cash position at year-end to £7589.

The positive trends continue in 2022, with a helpful impact from duck food sales at the coffee shop since the second calendar quarter.

THE FRIENDS OF BISHOPS PARK

**Receipts & payment account for the year ended 31st December 2021**

	Sept-30 '22	2021	2020
<b>Receipts for the year</b>			
Subscriptions & Donations		£1,519	£685
Specified donations & other income (Note 1)		£100	£46
Net income from AGM (Note 2)		£0	
Book sales		£450	
		<b>£2,069</b>	<b>£731</b>
<b>Payments for the year</b>			
Printing, post, stationery, web		£831	
Summer social		£0	
Dues & subs paid		£571	
AGM room hire & other charges		£0	
Rose garden (Note 3)		£110	£459
Donations made		£0	
		<b>£1,512</b>	<b>£459</b>
<b>Surplus of receipts over payments</b>		<b>£557</b>	<b>£272</b>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 December 2021</b>			
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
At 1 January		£7,032	£6,760
Surplus of receipts over payments		£557	£272
		<b>£7,589</b>	<b>£7,032</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Cash &amp; investments</b>			
Bank account		£7,589	£7,032
Deposit account		£0	£0
Sums owed by third parties		£0	£0
		<b>£7,589</b>	<b>£7,032</b>

## Election of Officers and Committee (Christopher Hancock)

The reelection of the committee was carried unanimously.

Sonia Sintini proposed Sara Borthwick to replace Tommaso Ponselé as Treasurer. Seconded by Alex Laird.

## Vote of Thanks to Committee Members and Volunteers Past and Present (Rowena Vaughan)

The Friends are a volunteer organization and as always none of this would be possible without our committee members and volunteers who are the unsung heroes in all the work we do.

I would like to thank firstly Melanie Healy who stepped down as Co-Chair earlier this year. It was a pleasure to share the post of Chair of the Friends with Melanie, her clear and incisive guidance and the opportunity to share the workload made being Chair a joy.

I would also like to thank Tommaso Ponsel for his work as Treasurer of the Friends. We all know how difficult it is to juggle a full workload and volunteer work, thank you for all that you have done.

Our appreciation to the many, many volunteers in the gardening and litter picking groups, without whom the park would be a less colourful and definitely untidier place.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of current and past committee members, including Jane Swithinbank who continues to supply her wonderful informative nature notes for the newsletter.

Before I end, I would like to thank The Palace Gardener for allowing us to hold our AGM here, for keeping their doors open and for kindly giving us all a discount on purchases made this evening.

### **LET – police report (Rowena Vaughan)**

PC Craig Bracegirdle is unable to be with us tonight to give the police report, so I have condensed his LET report on incidents in the park.

- 4 reported robberies since January, one of which was particularly violent.
- 2 arrests for possession of cannabis,
- A couple of stop and searches for a weapon.

The LET has carried out some SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) e-scooter operations re speeding. On the whole the number of reported incidences is similar to previous years. The police have put in a planning application for the installation of cameras at all the entrances to the park.

**Pauline McCormack – Area Parks Manager LBHF Council**

Firstly, thank you to the Friends for your continued support. Sorry to hear Melanie has stood down – a big thank you for her contributions and a thank you to Rowena for her continued support as Chair. Thanks also to the litter pickers and gardeners who make a huge difference.

As Rowena mentioned, the river path has been completed (barring the section behind the hoarding which will form part of the reinstatement works, currently in discussion with FFC). The new path is created in more sustainable CEDEC to allow more drainage and sits with the Council's commitment to climate change. Have a year's defect period so can pick up any minor pooling issues that occur

'No Cycling' pavers been installed on the river walk.

Additional planting between the ferry steps and the FFC hoarding to increase biodiversity along the walk. Primarily hebes and gorse. Pollinator Pit stop planting of circa 200+ plants also done.

At the request of the Friends we have installed a couple of cycle racks outside the Moat Garden.

Four new large soakaways are being installed to help alleviate flooding in Bishop's Avenue.

Conversations with the skateboarders in the park. Some are working commercially as tutors. They are keen to set up a community group in order to raise funds to improve the skate area. Is this something we could marry up with the Friends? Thoughts welcome.

The lease for FFC is still under discussion with the works due to be completed in 2023 and we are seeking advice re ingress/egress from the turnstiles.

Painting of Stevenage Road railings have been completed and Bishop's Avenue railings underway.

We have received a quote from Thames Water for facilitating connection for a water tap in the Moat Garden. Costs are £5,197 to supply from the street to the boundary. An additional £1,500 would be needed from boundary to tap. Total £6,697.



In September we were awarded a Green Flag. A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped achieve this.

The Parks Tree Office has made an application for funding and some tree works are due to commence imminently. An inspection earlier in the year found several health issues with some of the trees. Please rest assured any works you see taking place are not unnecessary and feel free to ask if you have any queries.

The Oxford/Cambridge Boat Races are scheduled for 26 March with the 168<sup>th</sup> Men's Race taking place at 5pm and the 77<sup>th</sup> Women's Race starting at 4pm.

A Public Space Protection Order consultation about dogs in parks is now live and available on the Council website to identify the areas where dogs should be on leads, where there should be no dogs etc. Deadline is 15 January 2023.

### **Litter picking Group (Sarah Jane Johnson)**

The group began a couple of years ago shortly after the first lockdown. Ages range from a toddler and a 6 year old, Duke of Edinburgh scheme teens to retirees all sharing a desire to see our beautiful local park litter free. We meet most Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, with timings determined by the setting sun. You may also have seen us seconded to other events in the area such as the Wandsworth Bridge Road Fair and the Thames 21 clean up.

If you are interested in joining us please email [secretary.friendsofbishopspark@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.friendsofbishopspark@gmail.com)

### **AOB**

*Kate Groenholm asked about the Farmers' Market. She feels the previous situation in the park was much better than the new location at All Saint's School. There was more space for stallholders and customers alike and it was a destination for*

*family outings. Others in the audience added that the current offering is not a Farmers Market – it would be nice to see local producers.*

Pauline replied that the Events Team Managers are putting the market out to tender.

*The Chair commented that the speed of cyclists is an ongoing problem, in particular electric bicycles, as they cannot be heard.*

Pauline responded that the LET and the MET had been down to the park but there is little they can do apart from to educate cyclists and scooter riders. Byelaws prevent motorized vehicles being allowed in the park but hard to police private means of transport. The discussion is about installing traffic calming measures i.e. the humps by Bishops Meadow but these ultimately annoy not only cyclists but wheelchair users and pram pushers too.

*Christopher Hancock enquired about the footfall in the park.*

Pauline responded that the 2015 figures were over 2.5 million annually including match days. These figures have most likely risen especially since the Club has expanded.

Section 106 and the extension of the lease have generated significant income so whilst the works have been a nuisance we are also lucky to have them. The railings have been ringfenced for replacement or repairs. All Section 106 monies are earmarked for Bishops Park in conjunction with the agreement with the Church Commissioners.

**Guest Speaker: Felicity Rhodes. Thames 21 Volunteer Engagement Officer**

<https://www.thames21.org.uk>

The Thames River Watch Programme is taking place in 8 sites across London including in front of Bishops Park. It is a survey to assess the scale of plastic pollution so a comparison can be made once the Tideway Tunnel is up and running. Thames 21 is inviting anyone who is interested to join them and they are launching a new training ground for those who wish to lead their own clean up. [www.thames21.org.uk/training](http://www.thames21.org.uk/training)

**If you are not members of the Friends please consider signing up.**

[membershipforbishospark@gmail.com](mailto:membershipforbishospark@gmail.com)

<https://www.friendsofbishopspark.com>

**Email:** [Chair.bishopsparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.bishopsparkfriends@gmail.com)