

The Friends of Holland Park

Accounts – Year to 31 December 2013

Charity number 281348

The Friends of Holland Park

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2013

Report of the Trustees

Legal Structure

The Friends of Holland Park (“The Friends”) is a registered charity (registration number 281348) governed by its constitution and rules. The constitution (with the exception of the clauses relating to Objects, Dissolution and Amendments) can only be amended in relation to the Charity’s name and application of income and property by the assent of not less than two thirds of the members present at a general meeting and in relation to the remainder of the constitution by the assent of a majority of members present at a general meeting.

The president is Sir Angus Stirling.

The trustees who held office since 1 January 2013 were:

CCJ Batt, Treasurer (Resigned 20 March 2013)

NJW Brockmann

MK Denmead (Co-opted as Treasurer on 8 April 2013)

G French

KE Hall

RDN Hopkins

S Katz (Co-opted as Chairman on 1 October 2012. Resigned 4 February 2013)

JK Kettlewell (Co-opted as Chairman on 28 February 2013 and elected to that role on 20 March 2013)

SC Lindesay-Bethune (Co-opted as Asst Treasurer on 18 January 2014)

JE Puritz

AM Walker

RM Wood, Secretary

Objects and Policies

The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Holland Park as a place of historical and ecological interest and beauty; to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Park and, in particular, its retention as a natural woodland habitat for wildlife; and to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park.

Management and Organisation

The officers of the Charity are the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Stuart Katz resigned as trustee and chairman on 4 February 2013. Jennie Kettlewell, already a trustee, was co-opted as chairman on 28 February 2013 and elected to that role on 20 March 2013. The officers and committee are elected by members at the AGM. The trustees do not receive any remuneration or benefits from the organisation and no staff are employed by the Charity.

Review of Activities and Achievements during the Year

Chairman: Once it was known that chairman Stuart Katz's work commitments made it impractical for him to continue in the role, our priority was to find a new chairman with sufficient resource to commit to the task. Trustee Jennie Kettlewell felt that, as her own work commitments were now less onerous, she was willing to take on the role. She was elected at the AGM on 20 March.

Work to carry out FHP's charitable purposes for the public benefit is in 4 main areas:

- Monitor major developments that impact on the natural and historical assets of the Park and work with the developers to create acceptable solutions
- Raising funds through events and sale of merchandise
- Donations and sponsorship in accordance with our objects
- Working together with the Park management to protect and enhance natural and historical assets of the Park and preserve wildlife habitats.

Impact of Opera Holland Park on Grade 1 listed Holland House: Having instigated a vigorous campaign to prevent the permanent erection of an auditorium canopy over the terrace of Grade 1 listed Holland House, FHP again objected when the period was reduced to 8½ months. RDN Hopkins was the only speaker accepted to speak at the planning meeting on 12 March. As a result, the period from the start of construction to the site being fully cleared was reduced to 6½ months, a satisfactory outcome given the original application for 12 months. The target however remains 5 months and to reduce the negative impact of temporary ancillary buildings. During 2013, FHP undertook a constructive dialogue with the Council and English Heritage, and good progress was made on options for mutually-acceptable solutions. Time and budget constraints meant changes could not be made in time for the 2014 season, but the dialogue continues, with genuine intent on both sides, to improve the situation.

Monitoring major building developments: The Friends continued to monitor the development of the future Design Museum adjacent to the Park and the development on the Holland Park School grounds.

Donations and sponsorship: The Friends again sponsored a number of events run by the Ecology Centre, which enabled the Centre to stage the events without charge to participants. The cost of sponsorship was £700. Donations were made for the purchase of seven picnic tables for the enjoyment of Park visitors at a cost of £2,700. A donation of £15,000 was made as a contribution towards the purchase of a 'Walking Man' statue which had been on loan to the Park for 14 years and was much loved by the public. Proposals were made to the Council for further donations which are in the pipeline for 2014. In particular the commissioning of gates for the Wildlife Enclosure was temporarily put on hold by the Council.

Fundraising and Members' social events: The 31st Annual Art Exhibition in March was supported by some 70 artists and was well attended, in spite of visitor numbers being diminished by appalling weather. Two talks ("The Wit, Scandal and Politics of the Holland House Set" and "Metropolitan police horses - from highwaymen to football crowds") and a concert by Virtuosi were also very well attended. The Friends summer Pimm's in the Park in the grounds of the Youth Hostel attracted around 80 people and the annual Christmas concert with the Tallis Chamber Choir was sold out. Fundraising activities generated a surplus of circa £4,000, of which around one third related to the Annual Art Exhibition.

Following the death of the Bird & Nature Walk leader, Trustees took on this role. A Trustee led a group from the Norway Hostel on a tour of the Park's historical and natural assets. The Friends contributed to the Royal Borough's Conservation & Design Policy Review on aspects related to the Park.

Building relationships: The Friends maintained good relations with the Council through contact with councillors, Council Cabinet Members, the Parks Police and the Parks Management and attended all three of the Royal Borough's Holland Park Liaison Group meetings in addition to the police liaison meetings. The Friends attended the opening of the new Ecology Centre on 19 September, The Green Flag award celebration on 27 September and The London in Bloom award celebration on 12 November.

Gift Aid: Repayments from HMRC Charities received in 2013 were:

- £1,489 for Membership Subscriptions
- £512 for Donations

The trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance of public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Future Developments in 2014

The Friends will continue to monitor closely the Royal Borough's plans for the Park and any proposals which, in the opinion of the Trustees may adversely affect the Park and the public's enjoyment of it.

Discussions are continuing with the Council to find a mutually acceptable solution to the unacceptable ancillary Opera buildings surrounding Grade 1 listed Holland House and for the improvement of the terrace when the Opera is not on site.

The Council is offering a new 30-year lease for the Youth Hostel in Holland Park from the end of 2014. The Friends are monitoring the situation, as this has the potential for major impact on the Park.

The Friends are continuing discussions with The Design Museum about its impact on the Park when it opens in late 2015.

The Friends are working with the Royal Borough's Ecology team concerning appropriate management of woodland and designated meadow areas in the Park so that habitat is appropriately maintained. In addition the Friends are sponsoring habitat walls, Ecology events for the public and 'tree shelves' that have an educational as well as practical function in the Ecology Centre. Trustees continue to lead the monthly Bird & Nature Walk.

The annual Art Exhibition takes place in April. A well attended event (Development of the Old Commonwealth Institute into The New Design Museum) took place in February and a second will be held in October. Pimm's in the Park, The Virtuosi Concert and the Christmas Concert are planned and bookings are coming in. An onyx carving has been commissioned to improve the look of The Sun Trap Garden, following the theft of a marble bird bath. Discussions will be continued on commissioning gates to enhance the entrance to the Wildlife Enclosure both aesthetically and for increased safety.

A new Guide to Holland Park is well under way. This will be offered at a subsidised price to Members and to actual and potential visitors to the Park. Work continues for The Friends to build productive relationships with Council officers and elected members against the background of many changes of role due to bi-Borough amalgamation and to key contacts retiring.

The Trustees consider that the present resources of the Charity are adequate to meet its obligations.

Risk Management

The trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed, revised the Risk Register and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. The trustees will continue to monitor risks and to carry out an annual review.

Reserves Policy

The trustees consider that the Charity should hold a minimum reserve equivalent to 50% of annual expenditure to ensure that the quarterly newsletter can continue and other necessary expenditure paid if, due to unforeseen circumstances, the projected income is not received. Any reserves in excess of this are held pending expenditure on, or donations towards, projects related to the Park in accordance with the Charity's objects.

The Charity currently has substantial reserves because projects, which the Charity has indicated a willingness to support, have not yet received final approval from The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Once these approvals are given and discussions bear fruit, it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of the reserves would be expended.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2013

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	£	£
Incoming resources:		
Donations	5,475	29,237
Activities in furtherance of objects:		
Subscriptions	11,331	11,437
Advertising	4,005	2,740
Activities for generating funds:		
Events	11,332	10,148
Sale of merchandise	2,410	1,128
Interest	855	1,326
Total incoming resources	35,408	56,016
 Resources expended:		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising direct costs	875	929
Event expenses	8,188	7,288
Cost of merchandise	624	499
	9,687	8,716
Charitable expenditure:		
Newsletter	8,643	5,983
Grants	18,478	7,004
	27,121	12,987
Governance costs	817	354
Extraordinary item	-	1,962
Total resources expended	37,625	24,019
 Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(2,217)	31,997
Fund balances brought forward	101,455	69,458
Fund balances carried forward	99,238	101,455

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2013

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Current assets:		
Debtors and prepayments	616	518
Deposit and current accounts	101,465	104,482
	102,081	105,000
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	2,843	3,545
Net assets	99,238	101,455
Jennie Kettlewell (Chairman)		20 March 2014

The Friends of Holland Park
Notes to the Accounts for the Year ending 31 December 2013

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005 (SORP) and applicable accounting standards.

Cost of generating funds represents expenditure on membership, events and merchandise for sale.

Charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objects of the charity and comprises grants paid, the production of the newsletter and the cost of administration.

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2013 .

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commissioners. 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 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) 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 2011 act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 act; have not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.