

The Friends of Holland Park

Accounts – Year to 31 December 2012

Charity number 281348

The Friends of Holland Park

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2012

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 2012 were:

C C J Batt (Treasurer)

N J W Brockmann

G French

K E Hall

R D N Hopkins (Resigned as Chairman on 28 March 2012, but remains a trustee)

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

JA Kettlewell (Co-opted as Chairman on 28 February 2013)

J E Puritz

A M Walker

R M 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. R D N Hopkins resigned from the role of Chairman in March 2012. He had been in post for 13 years and remains a trustee. S Katz was co-opted as Chairman in October 2012. 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

Finding a new chairman was a priority. We co-opted S Katz in October but unfortunately his own business workload increased to the extent that he had to relinquish the role in early February 2013.

The Friends' achievement in having the forecourt of Holland House landscaped and opened to the public in 2011 was frustrated when, in November 2012, council-owned Opera Holland Park applied for planning permission to maintain the opera auditorium canopy on the forecourt site through a full year. The Friends launched a vigorous campaign to prevent this and won. The application was withdrawn, but an alternative application was submitted and The Friends' response is covered under Future Developments below.

The Friends monitored developments on the future Design Museum adjacent to the park.

A council-commissioned proposal for future developments in the Park – A Schedule of Options based on The Holland Park Review – was responded to by The Friends.

The two new books commissioned and subsidised by The Friends – *The Families of Holland House* and *The Pleasure Grounds of Holland House* – were completed and published to a high standard during the year. The books cost £2,400 and £5,031 respectively, in 2012.

Two stone seats were funded and sourced for chess players in the park, at a cost of £748.

During the year The Friends sponsored a number of events run by the Ecology Centre, which enabled the Centre to run the events without charge to participants. The cost of sponsorship was £550.

The 30th Annual Art Exhibition in March was supported by over 65 artists and produced a net profit for the Friends of ca £1,500.

Other fundraising and social events for members included two illustrated talks ('Rickshaws, Bridges and Teahouses' and 'The Pleasure Grounds of Holland House') and a concert by Virtuosi. During the summer, The Friends Pimm's in the Park in the grounds of the Youth Hostel attracted some 80 visitors in spite of the weather. The Christmas concert with the Tallis Chamber Choir was sold out.

At the Youth Hostel open day in September, two trustees attended to explain the role of The Friends to visitors and encourage membership.

The Friends were represented at the formal opening of Holland Park's Fukushima Garden and at the opening of the official launch of the Diamond Jubilee Walk, which also celebrated the 60th anniversary of Holland Park opening to the public. The Secretary was introduced to the Emperor of Japan who visited The Kyoto Garden.

The Friends maintained good relations with the council through contact with councillors, the Parks police and the Parks Department and attended all three of the Royal Borough's Holland Park Liaison Group meetings.

Towards the end of the year, we were the very fortunate recipients of a £25,000 legacy from the Will of a donor.

Gift Aid repayments from HMRC Charities received in 2012 were:

- £1,652.98 for Membership Subscriptions
- £733.47 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 2013

Following the resignation of S Katz as chairman and trustee on 4 February 2013 due to unforeseen business commitments, J Kettlewell, an existing trustee, was co-opted as Chairman on 28 February 2013.

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.

The first such subject is Opera Holland Park's new application for an opera auditorium canopy for eight months of the year. The Friends instigated a strong objection (some 196 people) and RDN Hopkins was the only speaker accepted to speak, on behalf of The Friends, at the Council Planning meeting on 12 March. As a result, the period from start of construction to fully cleared site was reduced to 6½ months, a satisfactory outcome, given the original application was for 12 months.

Work is progressing on the new Design Museum and The Friends are liaising with the Council and the developers to influence the impact on the Park and to discuss deployment of the £100k paid under the Section 106 Agreement for the benefit of the Park.

The annual art exhibition is taking place in March. One well attended event ('The Holland House Set') took place in February; a second is planned for October. Pimm's in the Park, The Virtuosi concert and the Christmas Concert are also planned.

It has been agreed that The Friends will again sponsor wildlife activities run by the Ecology Centre for the general public.

Discussions are under way for sourcing and funding carved wood gates for the Wildlife Enclosure to increase both security and the attractiveness of the area. In addition The Friends are seeking to source and fund a sculpture for the Sun Trap garden.

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 and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. The bad debt incurred during 2010 and reported to the Charity Commission has been acknowledged by the debtor but, despite rigorous efforts to achieve repayment, this now looks unlikely and it was deemed prudent to show this as an extraordinary item of £1,962 in the accounts.

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:

- Park projects, which the Charity has indicated a willingness to support, have not yet received final approval from The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.
- The Charity received an unexpected legacy of £25,000 and is discussing how this can best be utilised.

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.

J A Kettlewell (chairman)

18 March 2013

The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2012

		2011
Incoming resources:	£	£
Donations	4,237	5,016
Legacies	25,000	-
Activities in furtherance of objects:		
Subscriptions	11,437	11,253
Advertising	2,740	2,678
Activities for generating funds:		
Events	10,148	10,528
Sale of merchandise	1,128	1,291
Interest	1,326	1,206
Total incoming resources	56,016	31,972
Resources expended:		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising direct costs	929	1,457
Event expenses	7,288	7,206
Cost of merchandise	499	892
	8,716	9,555
Charitable expenditure:		
Newsletter	5,983	6,062
Grants	7,004	20,911
	12,987	26,973
Governance costs	354	605
Extraordinary item	1,962	-
Total resources expended	24,019	37,133
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	31,997	(5,161)
Fund balances brought forward	69,458	74,619
Fund balances carried forward	101,455	69,458

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2012

Current assets:	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	518	2,443
Deposit and current accounts	104,482	69,973
	105,000	72,416
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	3,545	2,958
Net assets	101,455	69,458

J A Kettlewell (Chairman) 18 March 2013

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ending 31 December 2011

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

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the act, 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:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the act; have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R Foreman FCA
13 Pottery Lane
Chelmsford CM1 4HH

18 March 2013