

FoBP AGM notes to and commentary on the annual accounts 2025

In last year's AGM report I said I intended to reinstate having an independent examiner's report on the FoBP annual accounts. I am very grateful to Sally-Ann Jeffries (Chartered Accountant) for taking on this responsibility and her report is included with the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure accounts. I'm very relieved it is a clean report!

Our membership is stable but the number of life-members has increased (from 32 to 43) and ten-year memberships have increased to 41. For the first time in decades we increased subscription amounts: this appears to have made no difference to new memberships.

We have significantly run down our restricted funds. These can be spent only on new trees and benches purchased from Lambeth. We've had a very large balance for years and the Committee decided to treat all tree purchases as donations while repaying Lambeth for trees and benches out of our restricted fund balance. At the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year the balance stood at £22,828 which reduced to £10,869 by the end of the year. The effect of this policy is to enable us to use the funds for the general benefit of the Park.

Car boot sales continue to be a reliable – and enjoyable – source of income. They attract new helpers, lots of customers and stallholders who tell us that ours are the most pleasant and friendliest car boots they go to. We are most unlikely to re-introduce Winter Fairs as the cost of hiring Brockwell Hall (which used to be free) is now completely exorbitant even after a discount. Our first AGM forty years ago was in Brockwell Hall and every subsequent AGM was there except when it was being rebuilt. Bookings were always free. The quote for this year was £1,600 which is completely impossible for a small charity like FoBP. We are very grateful to the Community Greenhouses for the use of the Barn.

For some years FoBP has not claimed GiftAid from HMRC because of restrictive policies on claiming mechanisms. In the absence of a Secretary I've had to take on a lot of the usual Secretary's tasks so I've not had time to address this. It becomes a task for our new Treasurer.

We continue to allocate £2,500pa for biodiversity volunteering in the Park. Our Biodiversity days have been a big success involving nearly 100 volunteers over the year – the latest one was yesterday (4 October) when twelve volunteers joined Alex Draper from Lambeth's biodiversity team to clear undergrowth at

Pond 3. There are three more volunteering days over the next month or so – you can sign up at <https://volunteer.brockwellpark.co.uk>

Our £2,708 liabilities in the accounts comprise:

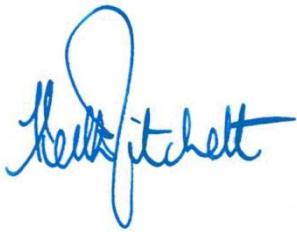
£350 payable to Lambeth for a biodiversity planting day

£1,925 payable to Lambeth for five Elm trees near the cricket nets

£433 payable for walled garden plants

All have now been fully paid off.

£500pa is allocated to planting in the wonderful walled garden. FoBP volunteers care for this miraculous space every Thursday – it is a marvellous example of FoBP's contribution to the Park. We hope for (and expect) another Gold Award this year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Fitchett'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top.

Keith Fitchett, Hon Treasurer