

## Friends of Brockwell Park

### Commentary on accounts for 2022/23 and 2023/24

For a significant period after our previous Treasurer stood down there was no FoBP Treasurer. This meant that accounts for 2022/23 had to be reconstructed more than eighteen months after the end of that financial year. This has led to a number of anomalies: the total net assets for each year on the Balance Sheet should be exactly the same as the total reserves in the Funds Statement. In fact there is a difference of £419 for 2022/23, £125 for 2023/24.

I have been able to bring forward the presentation of FoBP accounts to include the year that finished in April 2024. In addition we include the current accounts as at 17 October 2024 for members' information.

Currently we have 256 members including 34 ten-year and 32 life members. The number of members joining increased markedly after the appalling damage caused by the large gated events in the Park and this increase appears to be continuing. We should see an increase in subscription income when the 2024/25 accounts are presented next year.

Tree sales included in restricted funds were £7,700 in 22/23 and £1,540 in 23/24. Lambeth failed to bill us in 2022/23 but submitted invoices for £13,475 the following year. Restricted funds have been c£20,000 for more than ten years. In each year tree donations collected have been correctly treated and reconciled. The large balance stems from differences between FoBP's accounting and Lambeth's. It includes historical trees and bench works. The new Committee will have to decide how to apply the current balance to the benefit of the Park.

We currently have eight unsold trees worth £3,080 – already paid to Lambeth.

Car boot sales continue to be a reliable – and enjoyable – source of income. Now the Covid era is firmly behind us, and with newly joined helpers we can anticipate increasing both the number of events and the income next year. Other sales have disappeared: we haven't held a Winter Fair since Covid struck and the Lambeth Country Show is very hostile to charities and makes it almost impossible to function. For the first time FoBP, like most other Lambeth charities, did not have a stall this year.

Plants and bulbs were all for the walled garden in 2022/23. Spending in 2023/24 was c£500 for the walled garden and c£100 for biodiversity. The Committee decided to

allocate £2,500 for biodiversity for each of the next few years. This year's tranche is in the course of being spent.

In 2023/24 £500 was donated to the Brockwell Park Railway. In the current year donations increased to £3,280: £1,680 for a new park bench on the path from the Herne Hill gates up to the tennis courts; £1,100 to the St Matthew's Project, including £600 for girls' football; £500 to the Brockwell Park Greenhouses towards the renovation of the Barn (in which we are having our AGM).

Website training for FoBP officers came to £520 in 2022/23 and £980 in 2023/24.

There were no payables in the 2022/23 or 2023/24 accounts. The £4,180 currently payable is made up of £1,680 for a park bench and £2,500 for biodiversity planting.

The unrestricted funds brought forward in April 2022 include £3,245 of leftover Clock Tower appeal. This has been subsumed into our general funds.

For some years FoBP has not claimed GiftAid from HMRC because of restrictive policies on claiming mechanisms. This has to be sorted out and should result in several thousand pounds recovered.

The unrestricted funds at 17 October 2024 include £2,500 designated for biodiversity planting in the Park. Our first Biodiversity Planting Day on 5 October was a big success involving 25 volunteers and two members of Lambeth's biodiversity team. We shall be having our second Biodiversity Planting Day on 16 November.

Our annual income is well under £10,000 at which a full annual return must be submitted to the Charity Commission. (Money paid for trees does not count as our income.) We are not required to send accounts or have an auditor or independent examiner as our income is under £25,000. In previous years there has been an independent examination of the FoBP and I intend to reinstate this as good practice.



Keith Fitchett, Hon Treasurer