

Charity Number
1168319

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended
31 December 2025

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

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Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), the charity, or the trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

Charity registration number 1168319

Registered Office

Old Police House
Hyde Park
W2 2UH

The Trustees

Unless stated otherwise, the following persons served the CIO as Trustees throughout the year and to the date of this report.

Allyson Andrews (resigned 15th July 2025)

Joanna Clark

Simon Cox

Lynden Easton

William Gray

Tina Higginson

Carol Joseph

Patricia Ladkin

Susan Price

Christina Shiatis

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens is a registered charity. The governing document of the charity is its Constitution dated 22 June 2016 as amended.

The charity was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 20 July 2016. There are now almost 1000 members of the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees may be appointed by the Trust by ordinary resolution. Any Trustee appointed in this way must stand for election at the next AGM. At the AGM one third of the Trustees will retire by rotation and, being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election. All Trustees are

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Trust.

Trustee Induction and Training

The original Trustees are familiar with the Trust having been involved with the Trust since inception in 2016.

New Trustees are provided an induction session by the chairman to learn about all the activities of the Trust. They are also provided with all relevant Trust documents and policies and particularly copies of the Constitution and the last Annual Report.

Risk Management

The major risks facing the Trust have been reviewed and procedures have been established to manage these risks.

Event risk: The Trust has secured insurance which will cover us at events, subject to a risk assessment being carried out prior to each event.

Financial risk: The Chairman and Treasurer of the charity follow the income and expense on a quarterly basis that is presented to all Trustees at every meeting. Additionally the charity has an independent examination of the financial statements every year.

In addition to the risk policy, the Trust has governance policies in place to cover:

- Complaints handling
- Safekeeping and vulnerable beneficiaries
- Conflict of interest
- Investment
- Volunteers
- Ethical fundraising

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

PURPOSE AND AIMS

Our Trust's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in the Trust's Constitution, is:-
To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens with particular reference but not limited to:

- i. Peace and beauty;
- ii. Historic layout, buildings, monuments and facilities;
- iii. Trees, plants, birds and animal life;
- iv. The parks as a unique resource for the public.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust continues to attract donations to support the aims of the Trust.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are set out on page 10 and disclose that the Trust's income totalled £18,014 (2024: £16,301) of which £1,997 (2024: £1,899) was Gift Aid. Expenditure was £11,650 (2024: £10,460). Net income for the year was £6,364 (2024: £5,841)

RESERVES POLICY

Total reserves held by the Trust at the year-end were £97,064 (2024: £89,447) . Of these reserves £30,461 (2024: £30,184) was restricted and to be spent only on the Elfin Oak in Kensington Gardens. The Trustees have examined the Trust's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. At this time the Trustees consider the reserves to be adequate. Unrestricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £66,603 (2024: £59,263)

MEMBERSHIP

1. At 31 December 2025 there were (all categories) 992 members on our register (31 December 2024: 932 members)
2. 18 new life members joined this year.

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

CHAIR'S REPORT

A SUMMARY OF OUR YEAR

We have enjoyed plenty of contact with our members who are as supportive and enthusiastic as ever. Add to this the encouragement from both park managers, Jason Taylor and Andy Williams and nursery manager, Rob Dowling, and we feel very privileged to be able to get to know and enjoy these wonderful spaces with their help.

In addition, many of us will have enjoyed meeting and listening to members of staff who are experts in their fields and have been generous at events by giving us time which fill us in with up-to-date news.

Head gardeners Russell Stephens and Beth Handley, Matthew Pottage, who has been working on our planting and landscapes, Emma Sparre-Newman who manages Brompton Cemetery, Ryan Gill who manages playgrounds in Kensington Gardens, and the curators at the Serpentine Gallery are all thanked very much.

Our trustees have worked very hard throughout the year, and they have all taken on essential roles so they would be difficult to replace. One of our trustees had to step down with regret because of family commitments.

Our membership numbers are steady and grow a little more each month. Our membership secretary keeps a close eye on our numbers and makes sure all our members are actually existing with up-to-date details.

THE SHADOW OVER THE YEAR

The year started with a rumour in early January, that our dedicated Royal Parks police force might be discontinued. Our parks police force was included, amongst several sections of the police force, for potential cuts.

It was a hard-fought campaign with members joining us in lobbying. Our efforts were directed to every useful contact in Parliament, the higher levels of the Met Police, and the London Mayor as well as all our local ward councillors. There was plenty of all forms of media coverage and the parks executive negotiated hard. Finally, a decision was taken that our police officers would be leaving on November 1st.

I write this three months after we lost our police force.

Members of staff are not supposed, nor are qualified, to act as police, nor are park visitors who routinely witness plenty of unchecked breeches of park regulations.

Improved reporting and communications between the police from all the wards surrounding the parks and us are being explored.

Our trustees are committed to liaising with TRP staff and helping in any way we can, and we regularly update our members.

HOW WE HELP

Our information kiosk on the Serpentine Road was well established for its second season. Volunteers, organised by Patricia Ladkin and assisted by Kate Roskell, helped nearly 25,000 visitors. The most popular handouts were free maps, thanks to the Royal Parks, and none of these were ever seen left lying around. They were carefully carried away, as valued souvenirs.

Late in the summer, a buggy appeared for the use of the Friends to enable those with restricted mobility to access parts of the park which are out of reach. There continues to be intensive training for new recruits and refresher training for others. The areas around the Serpentine are sometimes very congested.

Trustee Will Gray has set the buggy up with its own email address: buggy.fhpkg@gmail.com. It will be driven, we hope with plenty of visitors, in Spring 2026.

Our well-established summer festival of bandstand music continued with three well attended concerts on The Hyde Park bandstand, and one sadly cancelled due to the weather forecast in Kensington Gardens. Trustee Tina Higginson works hard on all bookings and organisation to deliver this ambitious programme.

Thanks go to our ever-generous sponsors who continue to sponsor these events which give so much pleasure to so many.

A special mention goes to the Mercian Regiment Band which arrived a few days early, stayed with a London based regiment before performing together in Hyde Park.

Many thanks go to our sponsor, Carl Richardson of Richardson Brothers Foundation.

OUT AND ABOUT

During the year there were opportunities for our members to visit many parts of the parks to learn more about what goes on. The nursery is always busy with the plant sales held twice a year. Proceeds from them go to the Royal Parks Charity. In addition, in the spring, we have an early evening tour.

We were invited to Brompton Cemetery to learn more about the special monuments and visit the vaults. Manager Emma Sparre-Newman and her two assistants, the head gardener and funerals supervisor, were all excellent presenters. Considering the afternoon was spent in the cemetery, our tea which followed was a happy occasion where we were able to talk about the arrangements we would like to follow our own demise.

We enjoyed an early morning visit to the Serpentine Gallery's summer pavilion and a playful visit to the LEGO one as well, leaving at opening time to face a queue of children desperate to get in.

We were again grateful to hold our AGM in Hyde Park, and the following reception was held in the Learning Centre's lovely garden. Everyone appreciated the warm, high summer evening which started with Matthew Pottage in the Education Centre and finished in the magical Dell with head gardener Beth Handley and Matt.

As always, we ended the year with the keenly anticipated visit to Winter Wonderland, thanks to IMG director Suzy Griffiths. We learnt a lot about how the whole magnificent operation works and visited several attractions for a taste of action.

Our events are very quickly booked, and we do try to encourage new members to come along and members who have been before to hold back. This request sometimes works.

This is the briefest round-up of one year in the life of the Friends in these famous, best in the world, parks. We don't forget the teams of people out and about every day of the year looking after them so beautifully, sometimes helped by volunteers many of whom are also our

We owe them all so much, and hope that the little we can do is helpful.

And when our emailed Newsletters go round the world and I get messages back, I know there are so many more of you thinking about us and are on our side.

Thank you all,

On behalf of all the trustees.

Susan J M Price
Chairman

Friends of Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens

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Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK AND KENSINGTON GARDENS

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

I report on the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the CIO is not subject to audit under the 2011 Act and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether any 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trustees 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 no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 132 of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles as regards to accruals basis of accounting and the applicable Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Sheldon'.

James Sheldon FCA

Date:

Independent Examiner

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions and donations		14,655		13,855
Life membership taken to deferred income	(2,700)		(2,700)	
Life membership released from deferred income	1,724	(976)	1,818	(882)
Gift Aid (note 2)	1,998		1,899	
Gift Aid interest receivable	5	2,003	8	1,907
Bank interest receivable		1,749		1,145
Bandstands events donations	1,250		1,250	
Bandstands events direct costs	(1,600)	(350)	(2,299)	(1,049)
Other events income	2,131		2,124	
Other events direct costs	(1,198)	933	(800)	1,324
TOTAL INCOME		<u>18,014</u>		<u>16,300</u>
Administrative expenses				
Entertaining and gifts		669		508
Secretarial and office		6,990		6,945
Website		284		252
Stationery and printing		2,092		2,223
Meeting expenses		443		273
Subscriptions		30		-
Insurance		1,036		166
Software		85		60
Sundry expenses		21		32
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>11,650</u>		<u>10,459</u>
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>6,364</u></u>		<u><u>5,841</u></u>

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT YEAR ENDED
31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank Accounts (note 3)		
Current account	2,675	13,436
Deposit accounts	92,438	73,222
Total bank accounts	<u>95,113</u>	<u>86,658</u>
Other Current Assets		
Debtors	-	881
Creditors	1,951	1,908
Net Current Assets and Net Assets	<u>97,064</u>	<u>89,447</u>
RESERVES OF THE CHARITY		
Unrestricted reserves brought forward	42,902	37,061
Life membership reserve (note 4)	17,337	16,361
Restricted reserve	30,461	30,184
Surplus for the year	6,364	5,841
Total reserves	<u>97,064</u>	<u>89,447</u>

Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees have not required the CIO to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011; and

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

SJM Price
Chair
Date

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
Notes to the financial statements
year ended 31 December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accruals basis of accounting. The financial statements have prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Section 1A of The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Cash flow statement

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from presenting a cash flow statement on the grounds that the trust is small.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Life membership

Life memberships are granted in return for a single up-front payment, which is deferred to the life membership reserve and taken to the income and expenditure account on a 10% per annum reducing balance basis.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Governance costs are costs incurred in the meeting of constitutional and statutory requirements of the Trust.

Fund accounting

The reserves comprise the unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

In addition there are restricted funds to be used for specified purposes only.

Debtors and creditors

Trade and other debtors, and trade and other creditors, are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts. Provisions for liabilities are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
Notes to the financial statements
year ended 31 December 2025

2 GIFT AID

An allowance has been made for Gift Aid 2025 received from HMRC in February 2026.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount claimed	1,998	1,899
Interest received	5	8
	<u>2,003</u>	<u>1,907</u>

3 BANK ACCOUNTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
NatWest everyday current account	<u>2,675</u>	<u>13,436</u>
NatWest deposit account (instant access)	5,653	1,921
NatWest restricted funds (Elfin Oak)	30,461	30,184
NatWest deposit account (95 day notice)	<u>56,324</u>	<u>41,117</u>
	<u>92,438</u>	<u>73,222</u>

2 LIFE MEMBERSHIP RESERVE

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance brought forward	16,361	15,479
New life memberships during the year	2,700	2,700
	<u>19,061</u>	<u>18,179</u>
Less 10% of balance transferred to income	(1,724)	(1,818)
Balance carried forward	<u>17,337</u>	<u>16,361</u>

5 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Trustees were not paid and did not receive any benefits from the Charity in the year. No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity. There were no Trustees' expenses.

6 ELFIN OAK RESTRICTED FUND

The Elfin Oak Restricted Fund for the care of the Elfin Oak in Kensington Gardens is part of the Friends' responsibility.

The Fund is represented by a separate bank current account and is shown as a Restricted reserve of £30,461 (inclusive of interest) in Note 7. These funds have been moved to an interest bearing savings account from early 2025.

There was no related expenditure from the Fund in the year.

Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
Notes to the financial statements
year ended 31 December 2025

7 RESERVES	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted reserves	30,461	30,184
Unrestricted reserves	66,603	59,263
	<u>97,064</u>	<u>89,447</u>

8 INSURANCE

The insurance was reviewed during the year and cover has been increased to account for the increasing number of volunteers in the park representing Friends Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens. We now have 4 policies covering Public liability; Employers liability; Trustee indemnity and Fidelity Guarantee.