

*The Friends of
Regent's Park
& Primrose Hill*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday, 24th May 2023
6:00pm at the Herringham Hall, Regent's University NW1 4NS**



AGENDA

- Chair's Welcome
- Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes
- Election of Committee Members*
- Membership & Treasurers Report*
- Park Catering Panel – Benugo, Waterside café, The Royal Parks
- Adapted Bikes – Ben Dorsett Camden Senior Sports Development Officer
- Mark Elliott – Friends Outlook
- Q & A

Questions to be submitted to the secretary (secretary@friendsofregentspark.org) before or during the meeting.

*See reports below

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that our membership increased again. But we have plans to grow it much more! We will report on that at the meeting.

In 2022/23 we have begun two major changes to the way we do business. The first is the conversion to a Charity which is ongoing. From June 1st, any member joining or renewing will be asked to confirm their agreement that they are joining the new Charity. Progressively, we will transfer all members until only about 30 remain in the 1993 association. The remaining few will then conduct the postal vote (a constitutional obligation) to wind up the association.

The second is the change of our back-office system from Loveadmin to White Fuse. The new system requires members to register an account (apologies to anyone who has had problems with this). The great advantage is that members are now able to book and pay for events on-line, download their membership "card" to their phone (or ask for a paper one), and register as a volunteer. It may take time to get used to it, but we hope you will be pleased with it when completed. All of this has involved a radical change to our website, for which we have been obliged to pay for expert assistance.

In terms of our 2022/23 activity, we are close to seeing the new Bird Boards installed, we planted 23,000 bulbs, picked litter, organised a highly successful Coronation Big Lunch for almost 700 people as well as arranging 27 events, most of which have been oversubscribed. Our involvement with the "Adapted" bikes project (for elderly and disabled) continues. We hope to see that take off later in 2023. Our involvement in a "Tree App" did not succeed mainly because several of the other Friends groups did not support it.

In 2023 we are optimistic that we will finalise the project to take over the Benugo Food Truck and convert it into a Visitor Centre to replace our aging Gazebo. We are also strongly supporting the growing Regent's Park Music festival by sponsorship, joint publicity, and volunteering.

We thank all our members for their strong support, in particular our Committee for their commitment and energy.

As always, we thank Nick Biddle and his team for making the Park look wonderful even under some very difficult situations.

ELECTIONS

Anne-Marie Craven and Adrian Jackson have left the Committee.

The following people are retired from the Committee by rotation and are standing for re-election.

- Mark Elliott
- Mike Baker- Munton

The following people are proposed for election to the Committee.

- Joanna Faktor
- Rose Malik
- Helen Stephens, who has been appointed Secretary.

This will bring the Committee strength to 11. 12 is the maximum number allowed under the constitution.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Category	End 2019	End 2020	End 2021	End 2022
Full Paying Members	639	715	946	1022
Honorary Members	8	11	13	15
Life Members	47	48	48	47
Totals	694	774	1007	1084

The membership numbers have continued to increase year on year, in no small part due to the efforts of the Gazebo volunteers who signed up 92 new members in 2022.

One issue that causes some concern is membership “churn”. That is partly a symptom of the location of our park, but also the peripatetic population. In the second half of 2023 the Committee intends to do some research to identify if / how to keep members.

TREASURER’S REPORT: accounts for year end 31 December

Income	2022	2021
Subscription income	18,449	18,530
Sponsorship	6,500	6,000
Donations received	1,758	1,944
Greeting card, Postcard and Map sales	2,416	645
Art in the Park	120	
Total income	29,243	27,119
Expenditure	2022	2021
Bird Boards	5,184	
Donations and Sponsorship	6,341	7,027
Bulbs	4,189	2,132
Events	1,941	1,174
Consultant Fees	395	804
Printing & Postage	2,245	1,265
AGM, EOSR & Volunteer party	4,679	638
Administration /Miscellaneous	1,683	286
Photography	500	500
Goods for Sale	690	
Technology and IT	1,547	110
Total Expenditure	29,394	11,304
Year-end bank balance	£33,730	£35,692

In 2022 we made donations and sponsorship totaling £15,439. This included:

£5184	Bird Boards
£4189	Bulbs
£3711	Bandstand Festival
£500	Tony Duckett retirement (matching amount)
£500	Shakespeare – St John’s Lodge Garden
£360	SMC Youthwork – Football kit