

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) Annual Report 2023



The 2023 Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report is a record of the group's activities during the year, which included much planting, watering, weeding and pruning. It is also a way to thank our partner organisations – Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA), Westminster Council Parks Department and Continental Landscapes – who made our work possible through their tremendous support. This annual report is a testimony of our appreciation.

1. Background: why we exist and what we aim to do

Queen's Park Gardens is a green haven at the heart of the Queen's Park ward in North Westminster, with consistently the best scores for air quality tests in our area. The park is much used and appreciated by a diverse and multicultural range of local residents, including families with children, young people for sports, dog walkers, school groups, and people of all ages who come to exercise, walk through or just enjoy some quiet time surrounded by nature.

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) has existed in its current form since 2012 (a group existed previously in 2005/06). It was formed in response to complaints by several local residents on the state of the Wildlife Area (created in 2007/08) and a request by Westminster City Ward Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg for volunteers to come forward and help restore and maintain it.

The objectives of FQPG activities in Queen's Park Gardens (QPG) are to:

- Provide a peaceful outdoor space for the local community to enjoy.
- Encourage an appreciation of nature in the local community through the provision of an attractive, safe and sustainable area.
- Provide and maintain a habitat for native species in the Wildlife Area.
- Encourage community involvement in the use, development and maintenance of Queen's Park Gardens.

2. Who we are: our people

1. Friends of Queen's Park Gardens volunteers

The gardeners of Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) are local residents who come together as a group of unpaid volunteers to share the pleasure of gardening and with the hope of giving pleasure to others who use and visit the park.

We are for the most part amateurs and our gardening work complements that undertaken in the park by Continental Landscapes (contracted by Westminster Council) and Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA, contracted by Queen's Park Community Council). At present, we have a core group of around seven regular gardening volunteers, joined at times by other volunteers.

We are also grateful to another volunteer, Susan Chedghey, who has for many years maintained our social media platforms, including our website, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) accounts (details in Appendix 2). We all greatly appreciate Sue's contribution and were very sorry when she announced she would be stepping down at the end of 2023. We will miss her IT skills and other contributions. These activities will now be taken on by the chair.

We always welcome new volunteers, whether or not they have gardening experience and whether they would like to garden with us regularly or just once in a while.

2. Friends of Queen's Park Gardens committee

Our committee is designed to ensure the FQPG objectives are met, by providing co-ordination and support to gardening volunteers. The committee members are all local residents and FQPG gardeners, who give their time free of charge and without any remuneration. In conjunction with the other gardening volunteers, they run the gardening sessions, select and order plants, liaise with partner organisations and manage the administration for the group. In 2023, the committee comprised Ray Lancashire as chair, Simon Walton as treasurer and recorder of the gardening work undertaken, and Alison Low Madigan.

3. Our volunteer gardening sessions

Weather (and other circumstances) permitting, we aim to run weekly gardening sessions, working mostly in the Wildlife Area and a number of other flower beds around the park.

Our main sessions are held on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon.

Additional gardening sessions with a smaller number of FQPG gardening volunteers often take place on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon.



3. Key partnerships and funding

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens do not generate any direct income and we greatly appreciate the partnership support and funding we receive to be able to carry out the work we do.

1. Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) and local residents

We are very grateful to Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) for supporting FQPG in many ways, including funding. Our main source of funding is provided through the stipend QPCC receives from Westminster Council, which is paid by Queen's Park residents as part of their local Council Tax. We are always mindful that this money comes from our local community and we aim to spend it carefully and wisely, to be cost effective and give best value for the benefit of our neighbours.

Funding for FQPG used to be provided directly by QPCC through their community grants scheme, but is now provided via Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (see below).

It was a pleasure to be invited to the QPCC volunteers' party in December, which was a chance to meet up with QPCC councillors, other local volunteers and community champions.

2. Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA)

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA) is contracted and funded by QPCC to organise and run gardening-related activities in the area, including volunteer gardening sessions, events and plant sales.

We are indebted to HCGA for their funding and procurement support and would like to give special thanks to Cathy Maund for procuring plants, seeds and bulbs on our behalf during 2023, as well as for installing beautiful woven-willow hurdle gates to enclose the two compost bins in the Wildlife Area (see below).

We were sad to see Ulla Johnson leave HCGA during the year, as we have both valued her gardening wisdom and enjoyed her friendship over many years, but welcome Megan Felton to the HCGA team and look forward to working with her in 2024.

3. Westminster City Council and Continental Landscapes parks management

Close working with Westminster City Council and their parks-management contractors Continental is invaluable, as they have overall responsibility for the maintenance of Queen's Park Gardens. We very much appreciate the support of both the council and the contract teams.

We were pleased that the council and Continental included Queen's Park Gardens in the national No Mow May initiative, a biodiversity programme in which lawns in public areas were left uncut during the month, allowing them to flourish with spring grasses and wild flowers, attracting insects, grubs and pollinators.

In September, Amanda Scott, Head of Parks, and Relationships Officer, David Sear, from Westminster Council Parks Division organised a meeting in the park, bringing together all our key gardening partners, including Amanda and Dave, FQPG volunteers, Chris Merlin from Continental Landscapes and Megan Felton from HCGA. This was an excellent opportunity for us to talk about our plans and aspirations for the park, including our wish list for additional plants for several of the beds.

As a follow-up, Westminster Council and Continental very generously provided nearly 100 plants and shrubs, which we have planted in beds across the park and which should greatly enhance the gardens.

They also procured new signage (see below) and an additional length of hosepipe. This is an extension to the hosepipe they provided in 2022 and, as a result, we can now reach all the beds we tend to, without having to ferry water from the tap in the yard in a succession of watering cans – something we (and the plants) very much appreciate, especially in the warm, dry summer months, when watering takes up much of our gardening sessions.

4. Other networks/organisations

In 2023, FQPG chair Ray Lancashire and treasurer Simon Walton attended QPCC meetings on behalf of FQPG. Simon Walton also continued to participate in London Friends Groups meetings. FQPG continued to support Grow-Wild Website (run by Kew Gardens to encourage people to visit and volunteer at green spaces near them). FQPG are also proud to support London as a National Park City.

4. Activities and highlights in 2023

1. Wildlife Area

The Wildlife Area was the first section of the park to come within the remit of FQPG. It remains at the heart of our gardening work, with a focus on providing a natural environment with native English plants, as we seek to encourage the growth of wild flowers that attract pollinators, insects and birds, while controlling brambles and nettles that would otherwise overwhelm the area.

In 2023, we focused on revitalising the wildflower meadow, following two years of summer drought. This included sowing seeds and transplanting plants from other parts of the garden where they were unwanted 'weeds' – an example of our holistic approach to gardening by recycling plants within the garden, which is both good environmentally and minimises costs.

The meadow particularly benefited from the mix of rain and sun during the spring and summer, and there is now a greater diversity of plants than ever before – including campion, knapweed, mallow, cranesbill, clover, teasels, dandelions, dock, ragged robin, deadnettle and a variety of grasses, all of which contribute to the health of the meadow. The meadow is deliberately left uncut until the autumn, when it is mowed once by the Continental gardeners, a process which spreads the seeds as natural propagation.



Our new bug hotel was another priority. This is a structure made of recycled wooden pallets, along with branches and logs collected in the park to attract beetles, grubs and in particular a species of bee known as solitary bees. Work started in 2022 to replace a previous bug hotel, which had been damaged beyond repair by vandals in 2020/21. A census at the end of 2023 showed our new hotel is attracting centipedes, spiders, earwigs, woodlice and other grubs – though no sign yet of bees.

A major development this year has been the installation of natural willow gates on the compost bins by Hammersmith Community Gardens Association. These were needed to protect the heaps from a continual problem of people dumping waste, including soiled cat litter, which will not naturally degrade and makes the compost unusable (see challenges below).

As an enclosed area within the park, the Wildlife Area is regularly used by local nursery schools and families with young children. Maintaining the safety of the area is therefore particularly important and we pruned the hedge several times during the year to ensure good sightlines into the area. We also cleared leaves and laid woodchip to make the paths less slippery. The leaves were added to the compost heap to mulch down for use enriching the soil in future years.



2. Triangular Rose bed by Fourth Avenue entrance

This is the most mature of the formal flower beds gardened by the FQPG volunteers. Rose bushes fill most of the bed, with a border of spring-flowering bulbs, lavender and other low-level bedding plants and perennials.

In 2023, several older rose bushes reached the end of their natural lifespan and we are grateful to both Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA) and Westminster Council for providing replacement rose bushes to fill the gaps. We planted six new rose bushes, one of which was subsequently stolen.

We continued to monitor the winter-flowering cherry tree in the centre of the bed, which we feared was dying and are very pleased that following pruning it has revived and bloomed during the year.

Activities during the summer included regular watering, deadheading and pruning of the roses, successfully prolonging their flowering season from spring into the autumn. In the autumn, we planted tulip bulbs for flowering in spring 2024, adding to bulbs planted in previous years.



3. Circular flowerbed by the Third Avenue entrance

This bed is in a very visible location, especially for people arriving from Third Avenue. It was first adopted by the FQPG volunteers in 2019, after several years of neglect during which it became overgrown with weeds.

In line with our principle of maintaining low costs wherever possible, the planting in this bed has focused on sustainability, with a mix of perennials and other plants that self-seed, along with spring bulbs that should flower year after year.

In 2023, we were able to add considerably to this bed, thanks to Westminster Council's generous donation of geums, salvia and rudbeckia. Planted in the autumn, these will start flowering in the spring and summer of 2024, then reflower annually, with a mixture of red, pink and purple flowers.

We are grateful also to HCGA, which provided daffodil and tulip bulbs, which we planted in the autumn, together with allium bulbs gifted by one of the volunteer gardeners, Charlotte Chesney.

4. Railings bed along the play area close to the Fourth Avenue entrance

This bed is in a prominent position, especially for people arriving in the garden from Fourth Avenue and the many families and children who use the play area next to it. It is a narrow, shallow bed, which makes it hard to grow many plants, with the added challenge of squirrels and foxes, which seem to enjoy digging up everything that is planted there.

We are very grateful to Claire Hickey, who created the bed in 2020 and whose continuing efforts have transformed it.

In 2023, we continued to develop the bed, in particular with seeds collected in previous years and gifts of plants from volunteer gardeners, Claire Hickey and Charlotte Chesney, including nasturtium, marigolds, alyssum, white Brompton stocks and verbenas. In the autumn, thanks to Westminster Council, we planted geums, salvia and rudbeckia, which will add extra colour for summer 2024. Thanks also to HCGA, we planted spring bulbs, including tulips, daffodils and crocuses, for flowering in spring 2024.



5. Benches bed along the main path between Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue

This is a highly-visible bed, which for several years was an eyesore with only a few straggly shrubs and a lot of weeds. Due to the overhang of some large London plane trees, it is a very shady bed, which makes it unsuitable for many plants.

Another particular challenge for this bed is the poor quality of the soil, which includes remnants of broken bricks and rubble left over following the demolition of the former Farrant Street, which occupied the site prior to the park.

In 2020, the gardening volunteers decided to revitalise the bed by planting spring bulbs and wallflowers, which have flowered annually since then. Camellias, ferns, hellebores, foxgloves, daphne, cranesbill geraniums, sweet rocket, perennial borage have been added in subsequent years – some settling in successfully, others less so.

Learning from these experiences, we have this year focused on shade-loving plants, and were delighted when Westminster Council gifted a range of shrubs, including skimmias, leucothoe and saracacocca, which will have colourful flowers and berries at different times of year. We planted these in autumn 2023, together with tulip and daffodil bulbs provided by HCGA.



6. Other gardening activities

As well as the gardening they carry out in the Wildlife Area and the flower beds, the volunteer gardeners often give general gardening and maintenance support in other parts of the garden, including leaf sweeping and litter picking.

5. Special Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) events

FQPG volunteers took part in a number of events and activities organised by Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) in the park over the year.

1. Queen's Park Summer Festival

The Queen's Park Summer Festival, held in Queen's Park Gardens and organised by Queen's Park Community Council, is one of the highlights of the neighbourhood calendar, with a mix of stalls, activities and live entertainment for local residents and visitors of all ages. In 2023, we hosted a Friends of Queen's Park Gardens stall at the festival in the Wildlife Area, giving out information about our activities and organising a nature treasure hunt to encourage children and their parents to discover more about the plants growing there, with grapes as prizes. Sadly, it was one of the wettest days of the summer, with heavy rain for many hours until the sun broke through in the late afternoon.

2. QPCC garden clean-up sessions

Members of FQPG took part in clean-up sessions in the park, organised by Queen's Park Community Council following the summer and winter festivals.

3. Queen's Park Voice article

Friends of Queen's Park Gardens contributed an article to the summer 2023 issue of *Queen's Park Voice*, the magazine produced by QPCC for local residents. This was a chance to raise awareness about the group and to encourage others to join us as volunteers.



6. Challenges of 2023

FQPG volunteers all take great pleasure in gardening in Queen's Park Gardens – enjoying the opportunity to grow plants, spend time in a beautiful garden and work together. There are, nonetheless, some definite challenges involved in working in a public park.

1. Vandalism and plant thefts

One of the greatest sadnesses for the FQPG gardeners this year (as in previous years) has been the loss of plants, especially after they have been carefully planted and nurtured. This has been in part due to vandals, who damaged and destroyed plants carelessly. There were also people who picked flowers or dug up plants, often just when they were at their most colourful.

2. Damage by dogs

Incidents of dog fouling and damage caused by dogs let off their leads by their owners and running across beds have, it seems, increased over the year. The park includes a dedicated area which is fenced off as a dog run, where dogs can be let off their leads. Dog walkers are welcome in most of the rest of the garden, so long as their dogs are kept on leads. Dogs are fully excluded from the

Wildlife Area and play area, which are both protected as safe areas for children.

Part of the problem seems to be a general increase in the number of dogs being walked in the park, causing overcrowding in the dog run, where the grass has largely been reduced to mud (despite being replaced in 2022), and dog owners choosing to let their dogs run freely in the rest of the park, including the Wildlife Area. Another increasing problem is dog owners not bagging up and removing dog faeces, which are left on paths, lawns and flower beds.

We raised this issue at our meeting with Westminster Council and Continental in the autumn and suggested additional signage around the park could make it clearer where dogs are permitted and where they are not. Since then, a new sign has been affixed to the gate of the Wildlife Area, which we hope will make a difference.

3. Damage to the compost bins

Another, continuing, problem in 2023 has been the repeated dumping of large mounds of soiled pet litter in the compost bins in the Wildlife Area. Some pet litter might be advertised as being 'compostable', but it can in fact only be composted at extremely high temperatures, such as those reached by industrial composters. It is not suitable for the garden compost heaps that we have at Queen's Park Gardens.

In addition to contaminating the natural composting material in the heaps (leaves, cuttings, grass, etc), the pet urine and faeces in the litter are toxic and are a particular risk for the many children who play in the Wildlife Area, as well as to the gardeners who spend considerable time clearing it out week after week.

Over the past two years, FQPG gardeners have attempted to manage the problem by displaying signs asking people not to dump cat litter and explaining the dangers of cat faeces. Regrettably these have had no effect, which has been very dispiriting for the gardeners, especially as the compost (if clean) is of very good quality for adding nutrients to the flower beds.

We hope that a more successful solution has now been achieved, with the installation of two beautiful woven-willow gates by HCGA. These enclose the bins, which should make it more difficult for the litter dumpers to access the compost.

7. Special thanks

As in previous years, we are indebted to the generosity of many supporters, including our partner organisations listed above.

1. The time and expertise of our chair and treasurer

We are also extremely grateful to Ray Lancashire, as chair of FQPG, and Simon Walton, as treasurer. These are important administrative roles for the overall management of the Friends and we are very lucky to benefit from the generous contribution of their professional expertise and their time.

2. Gifts of plants and seeds

During 2023, we have received a number of generous gifts of plants, bulbs and seeds. Many thanks to everyone who has added to the beauty of the garden in this way, in particular:

- Charlotte Chesney
- Claire Hickey
- Nigel Snuggs and Simon Walton

3. Happy Lizzy for our AGM

A very big thank you to Liz Thorpe-Tracey and the team at Happy Lizzy, who offered us a warm and comfortable meeting room for our 2023 Annual General Meeting at the new Happy Hub on Third Avenue.

Held on 31 January 2024, this was our first AGM in person since before the covid pandemic and it was so much enjoyable and productive to be able to sit together around a shared table rather than as little boxes on computer screens. We greatly appreciate Liz's generosity in welcoming us into the new community hub before it was even officially opened.

4. And above all thanks to our volunteers

As with every year, we would like to give our biggest thanks of all to the people who make the garden grow, turning up on cold wet days as well as in sunny weather, enduring the disappointments of plants that die or are stolen alongside the pleasures of tending those that bloom.

Together, they have made an outstanding contribution to Queen's Park Gardens, bringing huge benefits to the many local people who use the gardens. Without their efforts, there would be far fewer flowers and many more weeds and brambles.

8. Feedback from park users

One of the greatest pleasures we enjoy when we are gardening is the chance to meet other visitors to the gardens. The gardens have been much used during the year, and many people have made a point of stopping and thanking the volunteer gardeners, expressing their appreciation of their work to make the park a more pleasant and safer place to be.

APPENDIX 1: Volunteer gardening hours 2023

In 2023, a total of 603 volunteer hours were recorded. These hours reflect time spent gardening; they do not include time spent on other additional volunteer activities, such as administration, procurement of materials and organisation.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Quarter 1 (January-March)	64 hours	76 hours	60 hours	114 hours	113.5 hours	174.5 hours	136 hours
Quarter 2 (April-June)	94 hours	121 hours	80 hours	93 hours	146.5 hours	177 hours	156.5 hours
Quarter 3 (July-September)	131 hours	99 hours	70 hours	141 hours	177 hours	179.5 hours	218.5 hours
Quarter 4 (October-December)	75 hours	64 hours	46 hours	103 hours	130 hours	145.5 hours	92 hours
TOTAL	364 hours	360 hours	266 hours	451 hours	567 hours	676.5 hours	603 hours

APPENDIX 2: FQPG on social media

At the end of 2023, the FQPG X (formerly Twitter) account had 566 followers (an increase of 13 compared with 553 followers at the end of December 2022).

We have 461 Facebook followers (50 more than at the end of 2022) and we had 416 Facebook page likes during the year, up from 367 over the same period a year ago.

APPENDIX 3: looking ahead – our plans for 2024

Objectives	Actions
Overarching aim Maintaining and developing the Wildlife Area and the four other beds we have adopted.	We will continue to use sustainable gardening practices, including collecting and sowing seeds harvested from plants in the garden, recycling plants across the garden, and growing plants that are bee-friendly and butterfly-friendly, as well as drought-resistant to reduce the need for additional water use.
Partnerships Continuing to build our partnerships with Westminster Council, HCGA, Continental Parks Management and QPCC.	We will work with them to enhance the park, both in FQPG areas and generally. Suggestions for improvements include the re-instatement of benches, new signage and more attractive gates at the garden entrances.
Wildlife Area – planting Adding more plants, especially to the meadow.	At the 2023 AGM it was agreed that we were happy to include plants categorised as British wildflowers by RHS, including those that are naturalised as well as natives. Charlotte will continue to bring plants from her own garden. We will also explore opportunities for a closer relationship with Meanwhile Gardens, where they have a lot of woodland plants.
Wildlife Area – planting record Setting up a record of planting in the wildlife meadow to monitor biodiversity.	Using her botanical knowledge, Charlotte has proposed creating a record of the range of different wildflowers in the meadow (both those that were planted and those that have self-seeded). This would be the basis for monitoring which plants thrive in this environment and which don't, which will help prioritise future planting to increase flowers and reduce grass.
Wildlife Area – bug hotel Maintaining the bug hotel to attract an even greater variety of insects, beetles and other wildlife.	We will continue to add to the structure with branches and other wood from fallen tree trunks around the garden. Based on positive experiences with nursery school groups that regularly visit the Wildlife Area on Wednesdays, we will encourage children to take an interest and help add to the structure.
Wildlife Area – compost heaps Protecting the compost bins from the dumping of non-compostable matter, so that we can use the compost for the enriching the soil in the garden.	We will continue to work with HCGA and Westminster Parks Department to find a solution to the dumping of cat litter in the compost bins. The gates do not seem to be working as a deterrent as the litter is still being added to the bins, either by opening the gates or being thrown over them. So we would like to explore some sort of sturdy covering or lid, that would allow rain to get in and that could be removed by the gardeners to enable access and turning of the compost, but would not be easily accessible to others and that act as a deterrent. We will discuss this with HCGA.
Wildlife Area – dog management Working with Westminster Council and others to reduce/eliminate access and damage by dogs in the Wildlife Area.	We appreciate Westminster Council's support with the dog warden and their proposals to increase signage about the ban on dogs in the Wildlife Area. Additional signs about the need for dogs to be kept on leads in the rest of the park might also be helpful. We also welcome the council's plans to returf the dog run, which should make it more appealing to dog walkers. Although, this could result in a period of increased problems if the run is closed while the turf is laid and settled in.

Triangular rose, circular, railings and benches beds Continuing to maintain and develop these beds.	Suggestions for additional plants include fuchsias, sunflowers, wallflowers and dahlias, especially for the railings and circular beds. As these are sun-loving plants, they are not suitable for the shadier benches bed.
Benches bed Maintaining and developing the benches bed.	Charlotte has offered to bring more foxgloves for the benches bed (which were successful last year). As there was a lot of planting in this bed in 2023, we will focus more on observing how the plants are settling in. This will help us plan future planting and also potentially thinning and moving some plants to other sites in the garden.
Extending the shrubbery along the main path Extending our gardening to add planting in the area by the Third Avenue entrance.	We will explore with Westminster Council and Continental a low-maintenance solution to fill a bare gap where there used to be a bench behind the circular bed. Suggestions include adding more low-level shrubs, such as mahonia (which are already much used in that area – recommended by Chris) along with Garrya elliptica and ferns (suggested by Charlotte). We would also plan to plant more daffodil bulbs along the front edge.
FQPG tools storage Consolidating our gardening tools and equipment in one location.	Historically, all of the FQPG gardening tools and equipment (barrows, etc) were stored in a lock-up garage in the Mozart Estate on Third Avenue, locked with padlocks and keys. Some tools are still there (along with the FQPG sign). But many of them are now stored in the Queen's Park Gardens hut, which is a more convenient location and easier for access as it has a combination padlock with a code rather than requiring a key. However, the hut is shared with Continental and HCGA and there is limited space and uncertainty about the long-term plans for its use. We will work with HCGA, Continental and Westminster Council to find a long-term solution.
Software program for mapping plants Researching software programs that would enable us to map the planting layouts in the beds.	This would enable us to map the plants in different beds, making it easier to track how plants thrive (or fail) and losses, whether through natural life cycles or thefts. This would be particularly useful for the triangular rose bed. Simon has contacted Westminster Parks Department and RHS to check if they have anything similar, but this has so far drawn a blank. Charlotte has suggested contacting Capel Manor environmental college to find out if they have a system.
QPCC events Participating in QPCC activities.	We will host a family-friendly stall and activities in the Wildlife Area at the QPCC Summer Festival. We will also explore opportunities to contribute to other QPCC activities.
FQPG volunteers Growing our group of volunteer gardeners.	We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers, in particular among local residents. However, with our current small group, our main priority (and pleasure) is gardening and we have limited resource to give intensive support to people with no gardening experience. So our aim will primarily be to attract people with some gardening knowledge. We will evaluate different ways to publicise our work and attract new volunteers. At present we use social media and noticeboard signs, but find that word of mouth is often most successful, especially when people see us working in the garden. We will also work with HCGA and QPCC to ensure potential volunteers are aware of their work also, as the professional HCGA gardener could give more direct support.

APPENDIX 4: Committee elections for 2024

Post holders and committee members (2023):

Chair (committee member): Ray Lancashire

Treasurer (committee member and recorder of hours worked and gardening activities undertaken): Simon Walton

Social media co-ordinator: Susan Chedgey

Committee member: Alison Low Madigan

Posts and post holders for 2024

Elections were carried out at the FQPG annual general meeting on 31 January 2024, attended by the committee members and the core group of FQPG gardening volunteers. These elections confirmed the post holders and committee members for 2024 – as follows:

Post	Postholder (2024)	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Ray Lancashire	Alison Low Madigan	Simon Walton
Treasurer	Simon Walton	Nigel Snuggs	Jill Forgham
Social media	Role taken on by chair		
Committee member	Alison Low Madigan	Jill Forgham	Neil Forgham

APPENDIX 5: Approval of the Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report 2023

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report 2023 was reviewed and approved by the FQPG committee and gardeners at their AGM on 31 January 2024.

We thank everyone who contributed, both on the content and photography, for reflecting back on the achievements and challenges of 2023 and for developing our plans for 2024.

