

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) Annual Report 2025



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Annual Report 2025

The 2025 Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report is a record of the group's gardening activities and our thanks to partner organisations for their support over the past year.

1. Why we exist and what we aim to do

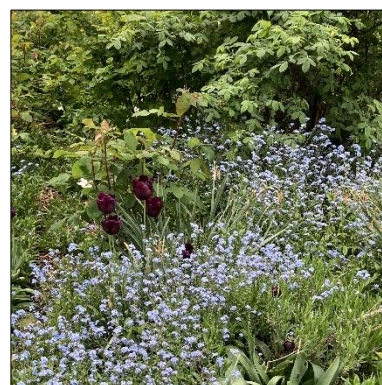
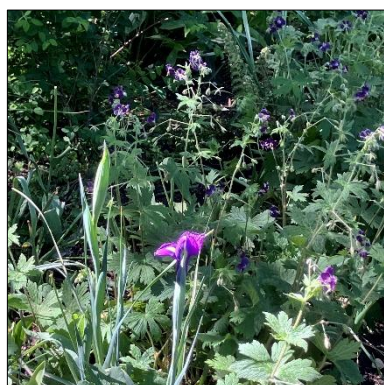
Queen's Park Gardens is a haven of green at the heart of the Queen's Park ward in North Westminster. Tucked between the Queen's Park and Mozart estates, the park is much used by a wide range of local residents, including families with children, young people for sports, dog walkers, nursery school groups, and people of all ages who come to exercise, walk through or just enjoy some quiet time surrounded by nature.

It also provides a natural habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds (from robins, sparrows and finches through to wood pigeons, crows and seagulls), butterflies and bees, beetles and worms, squirrels and foxes.

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens (FQPG) has existed in its current form since 2012 (a group had existed previously in 2005/06). It was formed originally to focus on clearing up the Wildlife Area, which had become overgrown with weeds and brambles. Since then, the group has adopted a number of other flower beds in the park.

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. Gardening 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, hopefully, give pleasure to others who use and visit the park. At present, we have a core group of around six regular gardening volunteers, joined at times by others. We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers, whether they wish to garden with us regularly or occasionally.

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 gardening sessions are held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon.

2. Our committee

In 2025, our committee consisted of the following roles:

- Chair: vacant
- Treasurer: Simon Walton
- Social media: Ray Lancashire
- Additional committee member: Alison Low Madigan

The role of chair was vacated at the FCGA annual general meeting in February 2025, following the resignation of our former chair, Ray Lancashire.

As no other member of the group volunteered to take on the role, it was agreed that the following administration and governance roles would be shared by the other committee members and gardeners:

- Arranging and leading gardening sessions
- Communicating with gardening volunteers about the sessions
- Financial management
- Recording volunteer gardening hours
- Liaising with partner organisations
- Identifying FQPG needs for plants, bulbs, seeds and tools, etc and co-ordinating orders
- Communications on social media and notice boards about FQPG gardening sessions and activities
- Producing an annual report
- Convening an annual general meeting

More information can be found in **APPENDIX 1** of this annual report.



3. Our key partnerships

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens does not receive any direct funding and we greatly appreciate the support we receive from the following organisations to be able to carry out the work we do.

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

We are grateful to Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) for supporting FQPG in many ways, including funding via Healthy Community Gardens Association (HCGA – see below). This funding is provided through the stipend QPCC receives from Westminster City 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 neighbourhood.

In 2025, Simon Walton attended QPCC meetings on behalf of FQPG.

2. Westminster City Council and Krinkels

Close working with Westminster City Council and their parks-management contractors Krinkels (formerly Continental Landscapes) is invaluable, as they have overall responsibility for the maintenance of Queen's Park Gardens. You can find more information about the support both organisations have given FQPG in 2025 in section **8.1 Special thanks**, below.

3. Healthy Community Gardens Association (HCGA)

Healthy Community Gardens Association (also known as Hammersmith Community Gardens Association or 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. You can find more information about the support HCGA gave FQPG in 2025 in section **8.2 Special thanks**, below.

4. Other networks/organisations

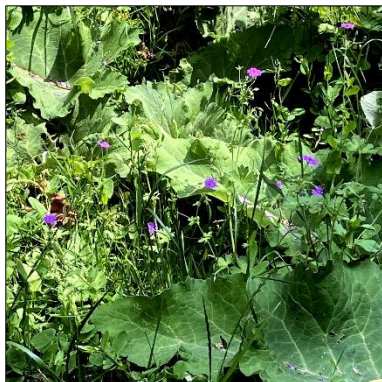
FQPG continued to support Grow-Wild Website (run by Kew Gardens to encourage people to visit and volunteer at green spaces near them) and was proud to support London as a National Park City.

4. Highlights and activities in 2025

1. Wildlife Area

The Wildlife Area was the first section of the park to come within the remit of FQPG, and it remains a key focus of our work to provide a natural environment with areas of managed woodland and wildflowers that attract pollinators, insects and birds. This requires a balance between allowing plants to grow naturally and cutting back thorny brambles and stinging nettles where these threaten to swamp out other plants and make paths unpassable.

Wildflower meadow Following several years of sowing seeds and transplanting plants that would elsewhere be considered as weeds, we were pleased to note an increasing diversity of plants in the wildflower meadow – including campion, knapweed, mallow, cranesbill, clover, teasels, dandelions, dock, ragged robin, deadnettle and a variety of grasses – all of which contribute to the health and sustainability of the garden.



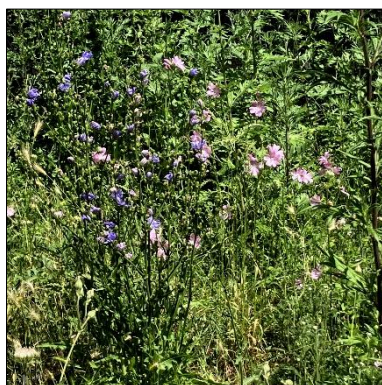
Creating a dog-free zone As an enclosed area within the park, the Wildlife Area is regularly used by local nursery schools and forest school groups of pre-school children. Maintaining the safety of the Wildlife Area is therefore extremely important, and dogs are banned from the area, both to mitigate against the dangers of fear or injury that could be caused by uncontrolled dogs and the risk of disease from their faeces.

While most dog walkers observe the ban, there has, unfortunately, been a significant problem in recent years of dog owners allowing their dogs to run loose in the Wildlife Area and not collecting up their mess. In 2025, Westminster City Council took the decision to lock the gates of the Wildlife Area with a coded padlock, restricting access to the nursery schools and gardening groups.

This change has been welcomed by the nursery school groups for making it a safer and more pleasant environment for young children. FQPG also welcomes the increased safety of a dog-free

zone, but regrets that it makes it more difficult for other park users to enjoy access to the Wildlife Area.

Compost bins At present there are two compost bins in the Wildlife Area, which have in the past produced rich compost. However, these have been increasingly contaminated in recent years, with the dumping of non-compostable waste materials. In 2024, woven-willow gates were installed by HCGA in an attempt to resolve the problem. But these were vandalised in 2025 and we have been working with David Sear from Westminster Council, Chris Marlin from Krinkels and Megan Felton from HCGA to develop a long-term solution, which might involve relocating the compost bins to a more secure location, such as the yard. A number of options were considered and will undoubtedly continue to be a focus in the coming year.



2. Triangular Rose bed by Fourth Avenue entrance

This is the most mature of the 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 plants.

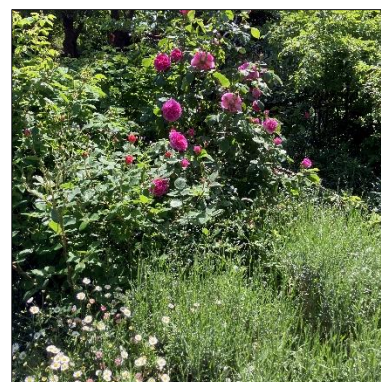
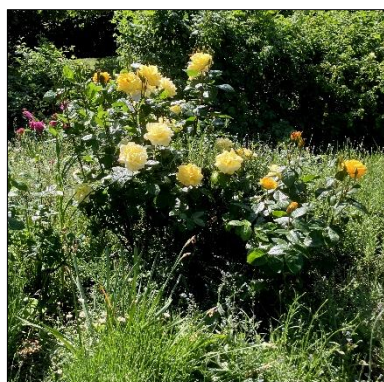
Activities during the year included weeding, watering, deadheading and pruning the roses, extending their flowering season from spring through as late as December. Unfortunately, there are now a number of gaps in the bed where rose bushes have either died off or been stolen, and we hope that Westminster City Council and Krinkels will provide us with replacements.

We have asked for a combination of Vanessa Bell, Charles Darwin and Golden Celebration roses as replacements for flowering in summer 2026.

Continuing on from 2024, there has been a prolific growth of self-seeded forget-me-knots, providing attractive ground cover and a deterrent to other weeds.

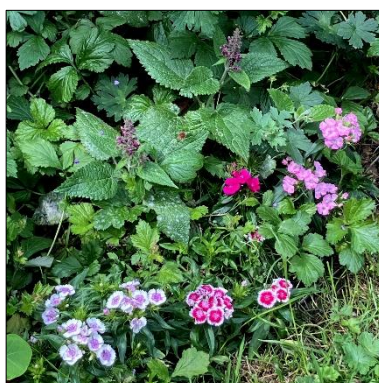
The lavender bushes that border the roses also flourished this year, and, at the end of the season, we harvested the lavender flowers and gave them to Megan Felton from HCGA for a therapeutic project with patients at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

In the autumn, we planted a mixture of Uncle Tom and Merlot tulip bulbs, procured for us by HCGA, for flowering in spring 2026. These dark red tulips were chosen to complement similarly-coloured bulbs planted in previous years to provide a homogenous planting scheme.



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 FQPG volunteers in 2019, after several years of neglect during which it had become 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. This year, we added daffodil, crocus and dwarf iris bulbs, provided by HCGA, together with wallflowers, pansies and daisies, generously gifted by one of the volunteer gardeners, Nigel Snuggs.



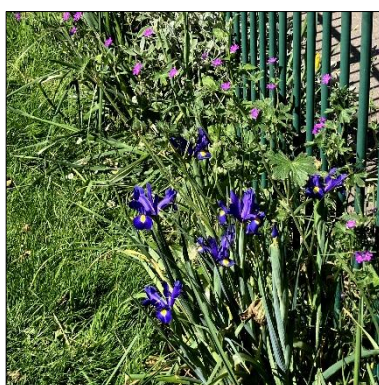
4. Railings bed along the play area close to the Fourth Avenue entrance

This bed is in a prominent position 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, and some young children who pick the flowers.

We are very grateful to Claire Hickey, who created the bed in 2020 and whose continuing efforts have transformed it, with several plants now well-established as repeat-flowering perennials, supplemented by a small number of annuals.

In 2025, after a wonderful display of spring bulbs, the dry weather conditions during the summer meant that the most profuse flowering was in the autumn.

Thanks to donations by HCGA, we planted a variety of spring bulbs, including tulips, daffodils, grape hyacinths and crocuses, for flowering in spring 2026, adding to bulbs planted in previous years.



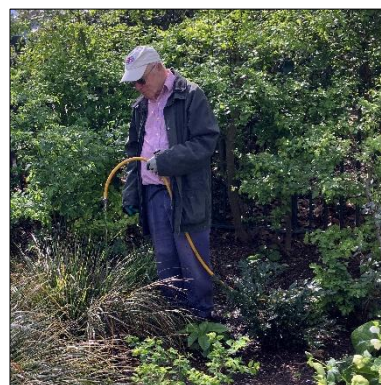
5. Benches bed along the main path between Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue

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 and houses on the south side of Ilbert Street, which occupied the site prior to the park.

In 2020, the FQPG gardening volunteers, led by Nigel Snuggs, decided to revitalise the bed by planting spring bulbs, and a range of plants, including ferns, hellebores and cranesbill geraniums, which have now mostly settled in very well, providing beautiful variations of green foliage throughout the year, together with seasonal flowering.

In 2025, the bed was at its most colourful in the spring and early summer, with a burst of daffodils followed by tulips, then drifts of cranesbill geraniums. There was a further burst of colour in the autumn and winter, with berried and winter-flowering shrubs, such as skimmias and hellebores (provided by Westminster Council and Krinkels in 2023), which are now maturing well.

In the autumn, we planted tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs, kindly provided by HCGA, for flowering in spring 2026.



6. Other gardening activities

As well as the gardening activities 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-raking and litter picking.

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

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

1. QPCC garden clean-up sessions

Simon Walton took part in QPCC-organised community clean-up and litter-collection sessions organised in the park and surrounding streets during the year.

2. QPCC community volunteer workshops

Several gardening volunteers hosted a stall and gave out information about the group at community workshop events organised by QPCC.

6. Special thanks in 2025

As in previous years, we are indebted to the generosity of many supporters. In 2025, we would like to give special thanks to the following people and organisations:

1. Westminster City Council and Krinkels

During the year, we have very much appreciated the support of David Sear, Relationships Officer from Westminster Council Parks Division, and Chris Merlin from Krinkels, who have visited the park and met with FQPG gardeners on several occasions. These visits were a chance to discuss our work with them, along with future plans for the park.

An extremely useful addition to our gardening this year was the installation of a rainwater butt in the yard by the council and Krinkels in 2024, reducing our dependence on mains water during the dry months of the summer.

A major project undertaken by the council during 2025 was the construction of a new boardwalk bridge in the Wildlife Area, replacing an old one that had rotted in places and become uneven after many years of wear and tear. Feedback from the nursery school teachers who use the Wildlife Area

with groups of children has been extremely positive, as it is much safer than the old one.

At the same time, the other planked path in the Wildlife Area was dismantled and replaced with woodchip. This seems to be a good solution, although it will need ongoing maintenance with additional woodchip to ensure it does not become muddy and slippery.

We are grateful also to Westminster City Council for pruning the hedge between the Wildlife Area and the rest of the park, a labour-intensive job previously undertaken by FQPG volunteers.

Discussions continued with the council, Krinkels and HCGA on developing a long-term solution for the compost bins, which suffered further damage during the year. A number of possible alternatives were considered and we hope that a viable solution will be developed in the coming year.



2. Healthy Communities Gardening Association (HCGA)

A big thank you to Healthy Communities Gardening Association (HCGA) for their support and expert horticultural advice over the year. In particular, it has been a great pleasure to work alongside Megan Felton, who, amongst other things, hosted a very interesting visit to another HCGA project, Phoenix Farm in White City.

HCGA provided the following bulbs for our autumn planting, which we divided between beds across the gardens for flowering in spring 2026:

Bulbs	Quantity	Beds
Daffodils – mixed dwarf	50	Benches bed Circular bed
Daffodils – tête à tête miniatures	100	Railings bed Benches bed Circular bed
Crocus – mixed	100	Railings bed Benches bed Circular bed
Tulips – Merlot	100	Triangular rose bed Benches bed
Tulips – Uncle Tom	100	Triangular rose bed Benches bed
Dwarf iris reticulata – mixed	100	Benches bed Circular bed
Muscari	54	Railings bed

3. And above all thanks to our gardeners

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 died or were stolen, alongside the pleasures of tending those that bloomed.

Their efforts are all the more appreciated in a year when several of them have experienced health problems and other personal difficulties. 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 volunteering, there would be far fewer flowers and many more weeds and brambles.

During 2025, we received a number of generous gifts of plants, bulbs and seeds from volunteer gardeners. 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

7. 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 were much used during the year, and many people 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: FQPG committee: posts and post holders for 2025

Elections were carried out at the FQPG annual general meeting on 18 February 2025, attended by the committee members and other FQPG gardening volunteers. These elections confirmed the post holders and committee members for 2025 – as follows:

Post	Postholder (2025)	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Vacant *		
Treasurer	Simon Walton	Charlotte Chesney	Alison Low Madigan
Social media	Ray Lancashire	Simon Walton	Charlotte Chesney
Committee member	Alison Low Madigan	Charlotte Chesney	Ray Lancashire

*After several years as chair of FQPG, Ray Lancashire announced his decision to stand down at the FQPG AGM. As no other committee members or gardening volunteers offered to take on the role of chair, there was a discussion about whether a replacement chair was needed at this time.

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens is neither a registered charity nor a formally constituted body and there is no legal requirement for a chair. However, a more formal structure was required in the past for governance purposes when the group applied directly for funding grants from QPCC.

As this is no longer the case, it was agreed that the role could be vacant, with the functions associated with the role to be undertaken by other committee members alongside their other activities.

APPENDIX 2: Volunteer gardening hours in 2025

In 2025, a total of 376 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	2024	2025
Quarter 1 (January-March)	64 hours	76 hours	60 hours	114 hours	113.5 hours	174.5 hours	136 hours	119.5 hours	96 hours
Quarter 2 (April-June)	94 hours	121 hours	80 hours	93 hours	146.5 hours	177 hours	156.5 hours	139 hours	76.5 hours
Quarter 3 (July-September)	131 hours	99 hours	70 hours	141 hours	177 hours	179.5 hours	218.5 hours	169.5 hours	115 hours
Quarter 4 (October-December)	75 hours	64 hours	46 hours	103 hours	130 hours	145.5 hours	92 hours	92 hours	88.5 hours
TOTAL	364 hours	360 hours	266 hours	451 hours	567 hours	676.5 hours	603 hours	520 hours	376 hours

APPENDIX 3: FQPG on social media

At the end of 2025, the FQPG X (formerly Twitter) account had 551 followers (down from 561 at the end of 2024).

We had 497 Facebook followers (up from 493 in 2024).

The FQPG Instagram account had three posts and eight followers.

APPENDIX 4: Update on our 2025 objectives – actions and outcomes

The Friends of Queen's Park annual general meeting, held on 18 February 2025, was an opportunity for the FQPG committee to formally sign off on the 2024 Annual Report and also for the committee members and other gardening volunteers to propose and agree on the objectives for the year ahead. Here, we give an update on how these objectives were turned into actions.

2025 objectives	Summary of actions and outcomes
Overarching aim Maintaining and developing the Wildlife Area and the four other beds we have adopted.	This continued to be at the heart of the work undertaken by FQPG volunteer gardeners throughout the year.
Environmental responsibility Gardening in ways that minimise negative environmental impact on the planet.	We collected and replanted seeds, encouraged self-seeding of plants where appropriate, and favoured plants that are sustainable in changing climatic conditions, such as heat and drought, and perennials rather than annuals. We were selective in our watering during the summer, and used rainwater collected in the new water butt in the yard, where possible, rather than relying on mains water.
Partnerships Continuing to build our partnerships with Westminster City Council, HCGA, Krinkels and QPCC.	We continued to enjoy positive gardening relationships with our partners, and we are very grateful to Megan Felton at HCGA, David Sear at Westminster City Council, and Chris Merlin at Krinkels for their practical support, including donations of plants and bulbs, and expert advice on joint projects, such as reinstating the compost bins.
Wildlife Area Maintaining and adding more plants, especially to the meadow.	We continued to add plants and seeds to the Wildlife Area, in particular seeds collected in the garden, building up the bio-diversity of a habitat that is welcoming to birds, bees, butterflies and other insects.
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.	Unfortunately, efforts initiated in 2024 to create a secure the compost bins in the Wildlife Area were unsuccessful, with further dumping and damage. As a result, we are exploring alternative options with Westminster City Council, Krinkels and HCGA in order to develop a long-term solution, which will hopefully be implemented in 2026.
Wildlife Area – dog management Working with Westminster Council and others to reduce/eliminate access and damage by dogs in the Wildlife Area.	Following escalation of anti-social behaviour by dog owners allowing their dogs to run loose and foul the Wildlife Area, the council took the decision to lock the Wildlife Area and limit access to the gardeners and local nursery schools, making it a safe dog-free environment for young children.
Triangular rose bed, circular bed, railings bed and benches bed Continuing to maintain and develop these beds.	We continued to work on all these beds, adding plants, seeds and bulbs, with a focus on varieties that will have longevity into future years. We are grateful to Westminster City Council, Krinkels, HCGA and individual gardeners for their donations of plants and bulbs.
Extending planting along the main path Extending our gardening to add planting in the area towards the Third Avenue entrance.	We discussed with Westminster Council and Krinkels the possibility of getting some shrubs to fill an unsightly gap in the shrubbery behind the circular bed, but have not progressed on this.
QPCC events Participating in QPCC activities.	We took part in QPCC Events and activities, including clean-up days and community open days.

2025 objectives	Summary of actions and outcomes
FQPG volunteers Growing our group of volunteer gardeners.	We maintained a steady core of dedicated and hard-working volunteer gardeners throughout the year. A number of the volunteers also took part in events organised by QPCC to raise awareness of our work among local residents.

APPENDIX 5: FQPG Annual General Meeting

The FQPG AGM was held at 6-7.30pm on 28 January 2026 at the Happy Hub, 23 Third Avenue, London W10 4RS.

The meeting was attended by the three committee members and the four other regular gardening volunteers who make up the core membership of the group (three in person and one by Whatsapp video link).

The meeting was an opportunity to look back on the past year, approve the 2025 annual report, carry out the annual election of committee members and to plan the priorities and objectives for 2026.

We would like to thank Liz Thorpe-Tracey for hosting our AGM at the Happy Hub once again. We very much appreciate the warm welcome she gave us and her support.

APPENDIX 6: FQPG committee elections for 2026

The AGM included a review of the committee structure.

In 2025, the post of chair became vacant and the activities associated with the post were shared out among the other gardening volunteers. Everyone agreed this arrangement had been effective over the past year and, as no-one expressed an interest in taking on the role of chair for the year ahead, that it should continue.

Reflection on the activities undertaken by the committee members, and changes to these activities, resulted in some small changes to how these posts are described.

Other gardeners were invited to take up roles on the committee, but they declined.

Post	Postholder (2026)	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Vacant		
Treasurer, volunteer communications and time credits	Simon Walton	Alison Low Madigan	Nigel Snuggs
Co-ordination	Alison Low Madigan	Charlotte Chesney	Nigel Snuggs
Online communications	Ray Lancashire	Simon Walton	Helen Mulvein

APPENDIX 7: Approval of the Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens Annual Report 2025 was reviewed and approved by the FQPG committee and gardeners at their AGM on 28 January 2026.

We thank everyone who contributed, both on the content and photography, for reflecting back on the achievements and challenges of 2025 and for developing our plans for 2026.

APPENDIX 8: FQPG priorities and objectives for 2026

The follow following topics were discussed and agreed at the FQPG AGM on 28 January 2026.

Topics	Issues and discussion	Decisions and next steps
Social media accounts FQPG has social media accounts on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and Instagram, but these are little used.	<p>There was discussion about our continued presence on these three social media platforms, with concerns expressed about their increasing toxicity.</p> <p>While there was an argument that they give us a wider online presence than other communications, it was agreed that none of the gardeners used the FQPG accounts and that the accounts attracted no new volunteers.</p>	The decision was made to remove FQPG from X, Facebook and Instagram, both as a matter of principle and because they provide no obvious benefits to the group.
Tempo Time Credits FQPG offers Tempo Time Credits to volunteer gardeners, which are available online for them to redeem for a range of activities. The time credits are administered by committee member Simon Walton, who records the hours worked by volunteers and registers communications from Tempo about people who have expressed an interest in FQPG.	<p>There was discussion about whether we should continue with the Tempo Time Credits – for the following reasons:</p> <p>Registering the updates from Tempo about people who might be interested in FQPG is time-consuming and has resulted in no new volunteers.</p> <p>Few of the existing volunteers use time credits, especially as the redemption process has become more complicated and fewer activities of interest are available through them.</p>	The decision was made to continue to offer Tempo Time Credits, as there might be activities of interest to existing volunteers and they might be incentive for new volunteers. However, it was decided to stop spending the time registering the updates from Tempo, as these serve no purpose.
Access to the Wildlife Area Following persistent anti-social behaviour, WCC locked the gate to the Wildlife Area with a coded padlock in late 2025, restricting access to gardeners and local nursery schools. In December, the gate was left unlocked and the problems returned, including waste on the compost, litter and dog mess. At a meeting with Dave Sear from Westminster Council (14/01/2026) there was agreement for the area to be locked with the padlock with restricted access.	<p>There was discussion about whether the gardeners support the locking of the Wildlife Area or would support more freedom of access.</p> <p>Some of the gardeners were sorry that the locking of the area meant that other people could not enter and enjoy the very special pleasures of a more natural environment. However, it was recognised that the risk of damage to the area outweighed the benefits of open access.</p> <p>The possibility of organising public open days to the area (in addition to the Summer Festival when it's open) was discussed, but deemed impractical.</p>	The decision was made to support the continued locking of the Wildlife Area with a coded padlock, restricting access to the gardeners and local nursery schools as a way to ensure that it is a clean, safe and pleasant environment. There was a proposal to have a notice from Westminster Council or QPCC displayed on the park noticeboard explaining that the Wildlife Area was locked due to antisocial behaviour.
Re-location of the compost bins The compost bins in the Wildlife Area have in the past been used	Initial designs (23/01/26) include three bins with lids, but WCC say they can be provided without lids.	There was agreement that that the main priority is to have workable bins.

Topics	Issues and discussion	Decisions and next steps
<p>to produce compost for use in the park.</p> <p>Problems of waste dumping and damage to the existing bins mean the compost has been contaminated and cannot be used.</p> <p>A proposal was agreed in 2025 with WCC to relocate the compost to three new bins in the yard. This proposal is being progressed through Dave Sear at Westminster City Council and Arto Taviolahti at Krinkels</p>	<p>There was discussion about the design of the bins – especially the lids, the height (it was felt they were too low) and the accessibility.</p>	<p>The general view was the bins should not have lids and that higher bins would be preferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Charlotte Chesney will talk to Megan Felton at HCGA for her views on the designs, as HCGA will also use them. ➤ Comments will be fed back to Dave Sear and Arto Taviolahti for designs to be finalised and construction undertaken.
<p>Re-use of the existing compost bins</p> <p>Once the new compost bins are built, the existing bins will be emptied.</p> <p>A proposal to consult with the nursery school teachers who are frequent users of the area for their suggestions has been discussed and supported at a meeting with Dave Sears of WCC (14/01/2026).</p>	<p>There was discussion about what should happen to the spaces vacated.</p> <p>An initial suggestion by one of nursery school groups for some benches to fill the space was felt to be a good idea.</p> <p>Alternative uses, such as a storage cupboard or a roofed-in area were discussed, but it was agreed these were not for us to decide.</p> <p>A proposal to set up a group liaising with the different schools was raised, but it was agreed that it was not practicable.</p>	<p>It was agreed to support the involvement of the local nursery school teachers in the re-use of the space vacated by the compost bins.</p>
<p>New roses for triangular rose bed</p> <p>FQPG gardeners have asked Westminster City Council for the following bare-root roses to fill gaps in the bed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Vanessa Bell x 2 · Charles Darwin x 2 · Golden Celebration x 2 <p>Prior to the meeting, Arto Taviolahti at Krinkels confirmed these had been ordered.</p>	<p>The news that the roses had been ordered was welcomed by the gardeners.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the best approach to planting the roses, with a view that it would be good to procure some compost for them (three bags). There was also a discussion about the best way to procure the compost.</p>	<p>Following the meeting, the roses were delivered on 5 February 2026 ready for planting.</p>
<p>Planning planting in the flowerbeds for 2026</p>	<p>Helen Mulvein suggested we take regular photographs of the beds to identify where there are gaps at different seasons so we can plan planting needs accordingly for different seasons.</p> <p>There was discussion about what other plants we would like.</p>	<p>We agreed that taking regular photos of the beds would be useful.</p> <p>We also agreed that our decisions would evolve and the best way of making decisions was to walk around regularly.</p>

Topics	Issues and discussion	Decisions and next steps
		<p>Wildlife Area Divide and transplant existing snowdrops after flowering (Helen/Charlotte). Procure more snowdrops – but not buying them. ➤ Charlotte will talk to Megan Felton to see if HCGA would be able to provide some from other gardens.</p> <p>Triangular rose bed Procure more lavender to fill gaps in the border around the rose bushes.</p> <p>Railings bed The bed is filling in well and will be managed with natural evolution.</p> <p>Benches bed The bed is filling in well and will be managed with natural evolution.</p> <p>Circular bed The bed is filling in well and will be managed with natural evolution.</p> <p>Elsewhere? We agreed we did not have the capacity to take on any further beds in the park.</p>
<p>Hose link for the water butt The new water butt in the yard (installed in 2024) reduces our reliance on mains water. But the tap from the butt is too low to get a bucket underneath on the barrow, so we have to fill separate watering cans which is more time-consuming.</p>	<p>Proposal discussed with WCC (14/01/2026) to have a hosepipe attachment to the water butt tap to fill the buckets on the barrow (NB it is larger than a normal tap).</p>	<p>It was agreed that this was a good way forward. Dave Sear is going to look into this.</p>
<p>Wood chip for the Wildlife Area A top-up of woodchip is needed on the paths to stop them from becoming too muddy and slippery. Laying woodchip is time-consuming and involves heavy lifting which is becoming more difficult for the FQPG volunteers.</p>	<p>Discussion with Dave Sear (14/01/26) whether it be possible for a corporate group to come and do a session laying woodchip on the paths. FQPG gardeners would be happy to be involved. Dave will look into this. Charlotte said HCGA was due to receive a delivery of woodchip in the yard at the park on 29/01/2026.</p>	<p>Next steps: ➤ Simon will report back on progress with the local tree surgeons. ➤ Alison will contact Dave Sear about woodchip being provided by the council and laid by a corporate group.</p>

Topics	Issues and discussion	Decisions and next steps
	<p>Although this primarily for use in the Rose Garden, FQPG could also use it.</p> <p>Simon and Nigel have also been talking to tree surgeons working locally about the possibility of getting woodchip delivered to the park.</p>	