



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
From	31	Oct	2015	To	31	Oct	2016

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Hillside Gardens Park and Palace Road Nature Garden

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1122576

Charity's principal address

91A Kingsmead Road
 London
 Postcode SW2 3HZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jesse Scharf	Chair		
2	Rosena Robson	Company Secretary		
3	Hannah Nunn	Treasurer		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Mr Patrick Foster	
Mr Anthony Francis Emerson	
Mrs Esperanza Harvey	

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election at general meeting and appointment by other trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

<p style="font-size: small;">(This area is for additional information regarding governance issues.)</p>

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

<p>To further or benefit the residents of Lambeth, Greater London and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide in the interest of social welfare for recreation, leisure time and occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.</p>
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Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We hold regular public meetings where park users and residents can discuss issues, concerns and ideas about the park.

We have regular channels of communication with officers and elected councillors at Lambeth Council.

We run ongoing activities (sport and gardening) that improve conditions in the park and the social welfare of its users.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Friends group had another busy year, continuing to improve the Nature Garden, develop the food growing site, run events and work with the council to secure the future of the park.

Our Cooperative Parks Proposal

We continued to develop our Cooperatives parks proposal however the council then decided to bring the parks service in house (as well as failing to agree a budget with us that would have made our proposal viable). The group were disappointed that significant time and energy hadn't resulted in any significant results however it was felt that parks being managed in house was preferable to the contractor that had previously been involved.

Lambeth had significant teething problems transferring staff and equipment to their new in house team and the Friends were active in identifying key tasks that we wished the council to prioritise.

Gardening Group

The group continued to develop the allotment site – the fruit trees are now fully established and new beds were built that allowed more growers to use the site.

We established a system of membership for the users of the allotment site with contributions to a small fund for communal equipment purchases. A recruitment drive resulted in ten new people joining the gardening group.

We explored helping a local entrepreneur use the site for a micro business growing herbs however the council objected saying they needed the space for vehicle movements.

Sports Weekend

The Friends of Hillside Gardens Park and Serious About Tennis delivered a successful Great British Tennis Weekend event and Sports Day in May 2016 building on the previous year. We added sports including walking football, and netball, delivered by a local PE teacher to the programme. The day was well attended and supported by Lambeth Council and a number of active volunteers. Our aim was to grow the number of people participating and the following of the Friends on social media. We estimate that 155 people took part in the activities on the day.

Palace Road Nature Garden Improvements

We hosted two day long corporate volunteering days with Business In the Community in May 2016 and October 2016 carrying out seasonal maintenance works including upgrading 100 meters of nature trails and bulb planting. We hosted a number of other events with a local group Goodgym who do volunteering as part of their keep fit activities helping with ongoing maintenance. The Nature Garden was awarded an RHS Britain in Bloom award again for 2016.

Growing the Friends Group

During the year the Friends group grew its presence on social media making more local residents aware of our work.

- Around 100 people joined our email list
- We placed banners in the park making more people aware of our work
- We grew our social media presence on facebook and twitter
- We held four well attended public meetings to keep people informed of our work and what was happening with the local councils budget cuts and the cooperative parks programme.

Green Flag Award

Hillside Gardens was awarded the Green Flag for 2015/16, for the 6th year running, in part because of the work of the Friends group.

Tennis in the Park

Three tennis coaches continued to work in the park. Dino Skeet is registered with the Lambeth Tennis Network as a programme coach meaning he is running a programme of activities for the local community (beyond offering private coaching sessions). The Friends group have supported his efforts to reach people and make them aware of the the activities being offered.

The programme has now been running since 2014 and continues to grow in terms of participants and our ability to offer sessions for different levels and ages. Serious About Tennis has an ambition to deliver a tennis programme which is affordable, inclusive and delivers a high standard of coaching and the activities you would expect from a private club, and continues to work towards this. Serious About Tennis is also committed to working with the Friends group to upgrade the facilities available to the local community. Serious About Tennis continued to offer funded places to attract new players including 20 free places on the Davis Cup legacy Tennis for Kids Courses.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We aim to hold in reserve funds that can cover the small expenditure we occur over the year such as purchase of teas and coffee for event and printing of documents for meeting and publicity.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We enclose a summary of our financial position alongside this report.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Jesse Scharf	
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Full name(s)	Jesse Scharf	Rosena Robson
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Company Secretary
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Date	24/06/17
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