



## FoBP Chair's AGM Report – 2025

**Welcome** - the Friends of Brockwell Park was founded 40 years ago to protect and enhance the park. Those tasks still remain.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – highlights from past and present**

You can see a fairly comprehensive large scale list of things the Friends have been involved in over the last 40 years. I'll pick out two things on the list for a bit more detail.

#### Large Commercial Walled Events

We'll keep on fighting the excluding walls with the overweight traffic to install them; and the too large crowds; both contribute to the destruction of the park's soil structure and curtail enjoyment of the park's green peace for local people, visitors and wildlife.

#### Brockwell Park Accessibility Map and Guide 2019 / 2025

In 2019 a FOBP survey with many responses from park users identified a hugely positive appreciation of the park but pinpointed the lack of facilities for less mobile people in such a hilly space. FOBP worked with a designer to produce an Accessibility map showing different aspects of the park which could be used and appreciated by a wide range of people. We are currently updating it. Thanks to Lucia for her ongoing support of this project.

#### **First AGM not in Brockwell Hall - £1,600 AFTER discount!**

Before the hugely successful restoration of Brockwell Hall, our AGMs were always held in the Hall. This is our second in the Community Greenhouses BARN and we are delighted to be here. We're also delighted that the newly opened cafe in the Hall is providing refreshments for our delectation after the AGM! Hiring space in the Hall is going to be difficult for community

groups with the current rates set by Lambeth. We note the large holes in Lambeth Council's finances but cannot fill them ourselves!

## **What we've achieved in the last year**

### Trees

FOBP's Tree Donation scheme enables people to remember a loved one, celebrate a family event or donate directly to the park itself. At this year's Tree Celebration in July Mayor Adrian Garden helped more people than ever before to celebrate the people, the trees and the park. Thanks to Antonia for long term collaboration here.

### Walled garden

Our brilliant team of volunteers has worked hard with Rasha, Lambeth's excellent gardener. The results of London in Bloom's July judging should be out soon and we hope for our seventh Gold award. Thanks to Alice who continues to be an integral part of new plant planning as well as making sure we're all focussed on doing the most essential maintenance tasks first.

### Horticulture and Biodiversity Volunteering days

We've had a good year for co-operative projects - with Alex and Iain at Lambeth's biodiversity team, with Susy at BPCP, Richard at TCV and Rosy at Froglife. We've worked on the North Meadow where wildflowers feeding insects cover the swales which catch flood water; on the 1,000m hedge running down the west side of the park, which supports birds, insects and mammals, and on the amphibian pond near the playground. You can sign up to help at [volunteer.brockwellpark.co.uk](http://volunteer.brockwellpark.co.uk). All these projects need ongoing maintenance and improvement, especially in the face of Climate Change challenges. FOBP will continue to contribute money and time to biodiversity in the park.

### Walks

Birds, wildflowers on New Year's Day and Midsummer's Day and bats. We have walked in search of all these and thank Czech Conroy and friends, Antonia, Roy Vickery from the SLBI and Chi van Rhyn for their expertise.

### Carboot sales

Are a major feature of FOBP's public face in summer months. They attract a friendly crowd of shoppers and sellers and profits go back into park projects. We are grateful to our members who come to help and we welcome the opportunity to keep in touch. Thank you to all who've come to chat and enable us to run safe and friendly car boot sales.

### Last – thanx to fellow officers and Committee members

Goodbyes: we were very sorry that Anita Hall was unable to become our secretary; sadly Richard Gilbert and Peter Logan retired from the committee early this year due to ill health; Amy Till, our wonderful Comms person is leaving to resuscitate her business while caring for two young children. We wish them all the best and thank them for their contributions.

During the year we've welcomed a wonderful bunch of new members to the committee. In addition to the essential, tasks they've taken on they have enormously reduced our average age! We say thank you for joining us to Jen Hawkins (Newsletter & playground group), Hetty Crist (Instagram), Sam McIlroy (MailChimp), Phil Cool (Posters and Horticulture organising), and latterly, Antje Meyer (playground group & Secretary). Thanks also to Keith Fitchett, Treasurer, Michael Taylor (Vice Chair), Nicky Toms (Membership Secretary), Jocelyn Pappenheim (endless valuable work on events and biodiversity) and to Michael Boyle (Lido). Especial thanks to Adam Steinhause and Lucia Daniels for organising our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – which will take place when this AGM finishes.

Thank you all for coming – we hope you'll stay for refreshments after the meeting.

Laura Morland

5 October 2025