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Annual Report

Friends of Broomfield Park



October 2026

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Welcome

A welcome from the Co-Chairs

Welcome to our annual review of another busy and rewarding year in Broomfield Park. This year marks our first annual report as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). As an organisation that is entirely volunteer-led, with no paid employees, we continue to be humbled by the scale of support, passion, and community pride that breathes life into our beloved green space.

Every single activity, event, habitat improvement, and educational workshop described in this report has been made possible by the skill and dedication of our volunteers. From pulling up plastic in the boating pond to hosting thousands of visitors at our summer events programme or encouraging the next generation of naturalists through our education visits, our volunteers are the heart beat of Broomfield Park.

Throughout this report we highlight some of our wonderful volunteers and share their stories. We are delighted to mark our achievements from the past year and lay out our priorities for the future.

Finula Cilliers and David March **Co-Chairs, The Friends of Broomfield Park**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Finula Cilliers, FoBP Co-Chair, Finula plays a central role in overseeing FoBP as a charity. She also loves being part of the habitats group which is where we see her here, helping create a new hedge around the wildlife pond.

Finula says: 'Being part of establishing new habitats and watching them come to life has been one of the most rewarding parts of the experience, Seeing species like Dunnocks, Common Blue Butterflies, and other wildlife return is a powerful sign that biodiversity is increasing. Just as meaningful has been working alongside an inspiring and diverse team of volunteers, all united by a shared commitment to restoring and protecting the natural environment'.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet David March FoBP Co-Chair. David has dedicated years of volunteer effort to the park. A driving force behind the creation of the community orchard, David has helped nurture it into the special place it is today, alongside a team of volunteers. From New Year wassailing, to spring blossom, and the much-loved autumn Apple Day, the orchard offers a space of peace and tranquillity for everyone.

David says: 'There is always something interesting to see in the orchard throughout the year; from the emerging wildflowers to the apple blossom of the different varieties, and the apples themselves. Our latest project with our DofE volunteers is the creation of a dry hedge as a habitat for wildlife'.

Summary

Everything we do is driven by our volunteers and framed around our five core priorities: broadening volunteer participation, conserving natural habitats, celebrating our shared heritage, widening public engagement, and strengthening civic partnerships.

From hedge-laying, tree planting, and water quality testing across our lakes and wetlands, to nurturing plant life in the conservatory and the Long Border, celebrating in the Community Orchard, conserving the Bandstand and educational initiatives with local schools, this report reflects the wide scope of our work to protect the park for future generations.

This report also highlights the park as an essential community hub supporting physical health, mental wellbeing and community connections. Our park is a significant element of the Palmers Green landscape. Broomfield Park provides a welcoming environment through its vibrant herbaceous borders, open lawns, historic listed walls, lakes, conservatory, orchard, sports facilities, and children's playground. Through inclusive initiatives - including the Palmers Green Festival, nature workshops for local primary schools, and weekly therapeutic art sessions - our activities help tackle social isolation and bring neighbours together.

Our work relies on the support of our local community. If you would like to lend a hand at any of our volunteering sessions, become a member, donate to our funds, or simply come along to our upcoming events, there are plenty of ways to take part and get involved. www.fobp.uk

Our Volunteer impact

3,548

Volunteer Days
per year

16,422

Total Volunteer
Hours

£328,440

Equivalent in-kind
value

"Broomfield Park is beautiful and diverse, we are lucky to have it on our doorstep"

Broomfield Park Visitor





Our Impact Assessed by Our Charitable Objects

Caring for and improving the Park: *Conservation · Preservation · Improvement*

- Around 150 volunteers contributed more than 16,000 hours to the care and improvement of Broomfield Park
- More than 4,000 hours were devoted directly to horticulture, habitats and lakes
- Volunteers restored growing beds, planted seven disease-resistant elm trees, managed more than 100 trees planted by FoBP, created new nesting habitats and continued management of the wetlands
- Water-quality monitoring, biodiversity surveys and ecological management strengthened our understanding and protection of the park's wildlife
- FoBP worked with Enfield Council and specialist organisations to secure improvements to the boating pond, lakes and other park infrastructure

Protecting nature and heritage for future generations: *Natural Beauty · Wildlife · Heritage · Public Understanding*

- Water management and habitats work have improved ecological conditions across the lakes and wetlands
- The Unlocking Broomfield programme has enabled FoBP to play a leading role in shaping the future of Broomfield House and its historic landscape, involving residents, schools and volunteers in consultation and co-design
- Regular bird, bumblebee and butterfly recording is building a stronger evidence base for the park's biodiversity
- The historic Bandstand has moved from a deteriorating asset towards funded conservation and restoration, ahead of its centenary in 2027
- Heritage initiatives including school visits, heritage learning and guided walks are helping more people understand and value the park's history

Making the Park a place for everyone: *Recreation · Leisure · Community · Wellbeing*

- More than 18,000 people participate annually in FoBP activities and events.
- Festivals, concerts, theatre, workshops, plant sales, community activities and wellbeing sessions provide opportunities for recreation, enjoyment and social connection
- Schools, young people and families are increasingly involved through education, volunteering and community events
- Our volunteering programme provides opportunities to develop practical skills, build confidence and make connections with others
- Activities are designed to be inclusive and accessible, helping reduce isolation and enabling people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities to benefit from the park

The Difference we are Making

150+

Regular Volunteers

16,422

Volunteer Hours

18,000

Event Participants

4,000+

Environmental Hours

"It's such a privilege to live within a short walk of this park. It's one of the pleasures of life to play a small part in keeping it lovely"

Local Resident and FoBP Volunteer





Priority 1: Broadening the Volunteer Force

Advancement of community development, civic participation, and skills development for public benefit.

Key Achievements and Numbers

- **Volunteer Scale:** Approximately 150 active volunteers contributed to the park this year, dedicating over 16,000 volunteer hours; the operational equivalent of £328,440 if paid in salaries (based on Heritage Lottery metrics)
- **Practical Training and Skills:** FoBP expanded training across multiple volunteer groups. This included scything lessons, wildflower and insect identification, water safety, first aid, and hedge-laying
- **Youth Volunteering:** We continued our highly popular Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) volunteer programme, engaged local young "festival makers" to support community events, and advanced collaborative discussions including a St George's Day event with local Scout groups
- **Recognition:** The scale, quality, and community value of our volunteer model was recognised this year through a nomination for the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) involving an assessment visit from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Our volunteer force is open, flexible, and inclusive. We welcome people of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds, proving that volunteering in nature is as good for the volunteer's wellbeing as it is for the park.

Jan is a Conservatory Volunteer "I started volunteering with the FoBP shortly after Uni. Relaxing in Broomfield was very comforting for me during Uni breaks, so when I saw it was run by volunteers I decided to join... Plants never really piqued my interest before, but now I truly appreciate the sheer variety and beauty of them. But arguably the best thing about my time here is the truly interesting people I meet and get to know. Try everything at least once—you just might meet some fun people along the way!"



Priority 2: Conserving the Park Environment

Key Achievements and Numbers:

- Environmental Hours: Over 4,000 volunteer hours were directly dedicated to horticulture, habitats, and lakes; volunteers stepping in to protect community green space where public sector resources are increasingly constrained
- Habitat Restoration and Management:
 - Restored ten raised beds in the growing space for vegetables and wildflowers
 - Managed existing wildflower meadows and worked to develop new ones
 - Removed plastic tree guards from established trees along Aldermans Hill to the Boating Pond
 - Reintroduced Elm Trees to Broomfield Park through planting of seven trees of a disease resistant species through a partnership with the charity elms4london
 - Continued managing 100+ trees planted by FoBP since 2020
 - Collected used Christmas trees, shredded them and used the resulting mulch to manage trees
 - Laid a new section of hedge by the wildlife pond using traditional craft techniques to create dense nesting habitats
 - Managed the Wetlands over the year and initiated in a tree thinning activity with Enfield Council to open up the area and improve wildlife habitats

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Our conservation work uses traditional methodologies to tackle contemporary challenges and protect the vulnerable wildlife that shares our park.

Matt volunteers with the Habitats team he says: *"Habitats work has a gentle tempo which is the perfect antidote to our frantic modern culture. It is most enjoyable spending time outdoors with like-minded people, using tools and techniques that date back centuries. I'm lucky to be involved!"*

- **Lakes and Water Quality:**
 - Conducted regular water quality testing for phosphate and ammonia across the upper, middle and lower lakes
 - Held regular meetings with Thames Water and the Environment Agency
 - Developed communications about domestic water systems damaging park water quality leading to the identification of seven local properties with leaking domestic appliances tainting local water, thus allowing for targeted remediation
- **Biodiversity Monitoring:**
 - Launched standardised, regular surveys of bumblebees, butterflies and birds using methodologies from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, the British Trust for Ornithology and the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme
 - Published a comprehensive review of wildlife in the park including plants, insects and birds
 - Recorded 22 different butterfly species in the park, with record-breaking numbers of Common Blue butterflies alongside healthy populations of Brimstones, Peacocks, and Commas
- **The Conservatory and Collections:**
 - Maintained and interpreted exotic plant collections, including orchids, strelitzia, succulents, and bromeliads
 - Cultivated house plants through cuttings and plant division, raising vital funds through Chili, Tomato, and House Plant sales
- **Composting and Green Waste management:** The Habitats Group composts large quantities of meadow hay and other green waste plus coffee grounds from the Community Cafe, with the resulting compost being used in raised beds and as tree mulch
- **Waterfowl Success:** This breeding season, our nesting protection signs and temporary fencing helped safeguard our wildlife, and we welcomed 11 goslings, 15 ducklings, and many cootlets and moorhen chicks

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



The Lakes team is dedicated to increasing diversity in the lakes by improving water quality and protecting wildlife.

Jenny is the founder of our Lakes Team caring for the waterfowl in the park: *"I started the Lakes team after seeing a swan pull up a plastic bag from the lake. It compelled me to start pulling out any rubbish that I could find, which I continue to do to this day. The lake now looks a lot clearer. Finding different ways to connect with nature and to help it to heal is very rewarding".*

Environmental Challenges; the park faced major climate challenges this year, including:

- A severe period of wet weather early in the year which caused the honeybees in our hives to perish
- The conservatory having to close for the first time in the 15 years it has been run by volunteers when temperatures reached 40 degrees
- Challenges for recently planted trees in the prolonged dry, hot spells

Mitigation: Our volunteers are working to mitigate the worst effects by:

- Re-establishing the apiary
- Focussing on plant selection and location
- Watering in the very early hours to minimise evaporation and support vulnerable plants
- Working with LBE Parks staff to monitor the impact of future climate related concerns in the park and adapt processes accordingly

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Cathy who is one of the beekeepers in Broomfield Park.

She has been part of the team looking after the bees for approximately eight years having done a course with the Enfield Beekeepers Association and previously had a hive on one of the Association sites.

Cathy is also involved with the regular school visits and in the annual process of removing the honey from the frames for jarring.

Cathy says: 'Bees are amazing insects and they continue to amaze and confound in equal measure!' Cathy will be working to establish a new colony of bees in the Broomfield Park Orchard



Priority 3: Celebrating our Heritage

Key Achievements

- The Unlocking Broomfield Programme: Memorialising the historic house and restoring the park landscape, has engaged a considerable amount of volunteer time and expertise in partnership with Enfield Council, Enfield Civic Society and the Enfield Archeological Society. FoBP members collaborated on draft submissions to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) and are hopeful of a positive funding outcome which will support the direction of heritage work
- Bandstand Restoration: FoBP researched and published a detailed history of the Bandstand. We secured Enfield Council *Pride in Enfield* funding and completed the first phase of structural conservation of the Bandstand in time for the summer music season
- School and Youth Heritage Outreach: Delivered interactive heritage learning sessions for pupils from Hazelwood School, introducing pupils to the history of Broomfield House, its past owners, the significance of the Remembrance Garden, and the future of the park
- Remembrance Garden: Working in partnership with Enfield Council, structural issues in this memorial space were highlighted and urgent repairs completed in time for the Armistice Day commemoration. The garden was again the centre of our November Remembrance service with pupils from local primary and secondary schools. The 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN was marked by the Enfield and Barnet UN Association unveiling the restored birdbath in the garden
- Community Storytelling: Formed the *Broomfield Stories Group* to gather oral histories and showcase individual volunteers and activities, preserving the history of the park dating to public opening of the park in the 1903

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Uncovering our shared history, the stories of Broomfield House, its landscape, and past inhabitants are vital to the identity of Palmers Green.

Colin leads our Heritage work in the park. He says:
'I have spent many years uncovering the hidden history of Broomfield House, its park and past inhabitants, with a particular fascination for Sir John Spencer.'

The park has a remarkable public history stretching back to 1903... and I find real reward in seeing others engage with and react to these stories.'



Priority 4: Increasing Public Engagement

Key Achievements and Numbers

- **Total Annual Engagement:** Attracted over 18,000 participants across a year-round calendar of community, educational, cultural and entertainment activities and events
- **Public Events Programme:** Supported major community events attracting diverse audiences, including:
 - **Music and Performance:** Broomfield Blues (spanning four Sundays in August), the RVoices Choir, Yebo! Fest, Saturday Love All Dayer, and open-air theatre performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Dracula
 - **Community and Family Fun:** The Palmers Green Festival (drawing over 8,000 visitors in September 2025), the Teddy Bear's Picnic, the Orchard Supper Club, and the Cogger Family Bank Holiday Fun Fair
- **Art and Wellbeing:** Delivered weekly therapeutic art and photography sessions at the Clubhouse for clients from two local care homes and the local Mental Health Trust

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Adomas. You will often see Adomas volunteering in the Broomfield Conservatory on a Sunday. Having moved to Palmers Green recently, he was immediately drawn to this unique community space. As well as admiring the beauty and heritage of the conservatory, he decided to volunteer to help welcome visitors, support its activities, and meet people from the local community.

Adomas says: *'The conservatory offers me not only a chance to contribute to the enjoyment of an important local landmark, but also an opportunity to connect with others, learn new skills, and become more involved in community life.'*

- Environmental Education:
 - Welcomed Year 4 pupils from Palmers Green School for hands-on wetlands exploration, water filtration experiments, and community litter-picking
 - Coordinated school workshops for Bowes Primary and Walker Primary covering the Wetlands, Orchard, Apiary, and Waterfowl
 - Launched the Hoverfly Lagoon Project, a fully-booked family workshop teaching children aged 6–10 to build micro-habitats for vital urban pollinators
 - Initiated new school holiday workshops with the Conservatory Group and the Horticultural team inviting children to participate and engaging local families with the park
 - Weekly learning session with adult volunteers following work mornings where we share research and knowledge about wildflowers, butterflies and other habitat areas before visiting our sites to identify a selection of species

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Broomfield Park is a space where nature, art, and community intersect to improve wellbeing and create memories.

Kathrin from the Habitats Group says:
'I started volunteering in Broomfield Park shortly after I moved to Palmers Green. I was hoping to spend more time outdoors and meet some like-minded people. Five years later, I am more enthusiastic about the local community and wildlife gardening than ever!'

'We can all make a difference. By volunteering locally even for an hour or two a week, setting up a tiny habitat or growing a single pollinator-friendly flower, we can make a real difference to our lives and the wider neighbourhood.'



Priority 5: Strengthening Partnerships

Key Achievements and Numbers

- **New Partnerships Established:** Our local Scout group held their first event in the park - with ideas emerging for more collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with The Ruth Winston Centre, a local independent adult activity and resource centre, further joint projects will follow
- **Environmental Alliances:** FoBP partnered with Thames21, Thames Water, and the Environment Agency to coordinate major initiatives. This included the winter wetlands tree removal project to cut back dense willow trees and restore water-cleaning functions
- **Monitoring Wildlife Habitats:** Volunteers worked with both the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology to deliver standardised, regular monitoring surveys
- **Social Enterprise Integration:** We continued our long-running collaboration with The Palmers Greenery Community Café, a social enterprise committed to fostering community wellbeing which serves as a central social hub in the park and reinvests all the profits it makes into FoBP projects

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sarah from the The Palmers Greenery Community Café says: 'Taking a moment to sit in nature with a cuppa and have a chat is one of life's simplest pleasures... Our volunteer team is our heartbeat and always ready with a smile whatever the weather!'

The café is a hub for park visitors, a crucial source of funding for Park projects, and also provides invaluable work experience for young adults with additional needs.

By pooling our energy, time, local knowledge and resources with local businesses, schools, and environmental experts, we achieve things together which no individual could do alone.



Priority 6: Strengthening Financial Management

FoBP has continued to strengthen its financial management as a newly established charity, improving oversight, transparency and the way resources are allocated to charitable activity. Over the last year we have:

- Strengthened trustee oversight of budgets, expenditure and project funding
- Applied our agreed financial policies and controls consistently across projects and activities
- Appointed a professional External Examiner to review accounts for submission to the Charities Commission
- Secured Gift Aid registration, providing an additional source of sustainable income
- Secured external funding for projects through applications to award-making bodies
- Introduced a 10% overhead contribution policy to ensure each volunteer group contributes fairly to the costs of running the charity.
- Improved project budgeting and financial planning, including for major funding applications
- Used funds strategically to support both new initiatives and established projects and activities, ensuring income is translated into tangible public benefit

Together, these measures are helping FoBP become a more financially sustainable and accountable charity, ensuring that funds entrusted to us are used effectively to deliver our charitable objects.



Future Outlook(2027/8)

Some ideas on our forward-looking plans for the park and the community.

1. Organisational Resilience: Develop a stronger, more sustainable charity, with the governance, financial resilience and organisational capacity needed to support FoBP's long-term ambitions.

2. Volunteer Leadership and Development: Move beyond volunteer recruitment to develop and support volunteer leaders, creating greater capacity for volunteers to lead activities, projects and new initiatives.

3. Heritage and Environmental Stewardship: Establish long-term FoBP programmes that strengthen the park's heritage and environmental value, including:

- *Unlocking Broomfield:* Support the memorialisation of Broomfield House and improvements to the historic centre of the park, including the Stable Yard.
- *Bandstand 100:* Use the bandstand centenary in 2027 to develop new communities and volunteer teams able to organise and sustain events in the park.

4. Park Infrastructure and Improvements: Partner with Enfield Council to improve landscapes, facilities, and pathways, alongside new proposals for maps, welcome boards, wayfinding, and wildlife signage. Support the Palmers Greenery Café and Make Space for Girls initiative to create a more welcoming space for teen girls and young people.

5. Learning and the Next Generation: Deepen our engagement with local schools, expand opportunities for community learning and explore the development of a Junior Park Rangers programme to encourage young people's involvement in the park and its stewardship.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Last year, more than 18,000 people attended events in Broomfield Park: a programme of outdoor theatre, food events, family activities and live music engaging our neighbours in fun, free or low-cost, community activities.

David, Secretary and Events Lead says '*I enjoy bringing people together through events, building a sense of community and pride in where we live. We have a fantastic team of volunteers and local young festival makers who make it all possible.*'



THANK YOU ! *Supporters Funders and Friends*

The Friends of Broomfield Park would like to express sincere gratitude to all the supporters whose ongoing generosity enables the care and upkeep of our cherished park. Thank you to our volunteers, members, donor members, and trustees for their continued dedication and support.

We are particularly grateful to our principal financial supporter, **The Palmers Greenery Community Café** alongside the following individuals and organisations:

- **Jill & Ray Bowden**
- **Jean Brewer**
- **The Chapman Trust**
- **Enfield Council "Pride in Enfield"**
- **The Gardens Trust**
- **Cara McDonagh**
- **Andrew Ransom**
- **The Vintage Blues St Harmonica's**
- **Winkworth Estate Agents**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteering with the Friends of Broomfield Park enables our team to engage with existing projects, and initiate new ideas and projects to benefit park users. Kim is a Trustee and member of the Habitats Group

He says: 'After retiring as a doctor, I began volunteering with FOBP on projects like the Wildlife Pond, meadow and apiary which opened up a new world for me. Sharing a love of nature with fellow volunteers has been deeply rewarding and good for my wellbeing.'

I am proud to have helped restore the Model Boating Pond and strengthened the park's treescape. I remain fully involved -still inspired by the energy of volunteers and park staff who continue to make Broomfield Park thrive'.

Working with Enfield Council:

A positive park partnership

Our primary partnership is with Enfield Council and of course our work in the park wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the staff, officers and elected members of the Council, in particular our local Councillors Doug Taylor and Chris James.

Working alongside the volunteers, resident horticulturalist Victoria Black and the Parks Supervisor Grant Steer must also be celebrated for their work in the park.



PARK STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Resident horticulturalist Vic says:

'Wednesday is my favourite day of the week, as I get the chance to work with the wonderful Horticultural Group volunteers.'

'We make a great team and this work, as well as our plant sales, make a huge difference to the beds and borders at Broomfield.'



PARK STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Park Supervisor Grant says:

'Broomfield Park, like other parks across Enfield, is a much-valued green space, hosting a variety of events throughout the year that bring the community together.'

'Working alongside volunteers to help enhance and care for the park is a real privilege.'

'Across all the parks I look after, I value the dedication of every volunteer I have the chance to work with and the difference they make in our local green spaces'



Managing the FoBP Charity

Charity Name - Friends of Broomfield Park (FoBP)

Charity Registration Number - 1210927

Website Address www.fobp.uk

Governing Document - Constitution (Registered as a CIO)

Names of Active Trustees

- Finula Cilliers (Co-Chair and Treasurer)
- David March (Co Chair)
- David Williamson (Secretary and Lead for Events),
- Penelope Austin (Trustee and Membership)
- Helen Blairman (Trustee and Lead for Education)
- Deborah Dalglish (Trustee and Volunteer Coordinator)
- Dr. Kim Lumley (Trustee and Habitats Group)
- Richard McKeever (Trustee and Communications)
- Elena Phrydas (Trustees and Lakes Team)
- Andrew Polycarpou (Trustee and Special Projects)
- Jean Thomas (Trustee and Deputy Treasurer)
- Colin Younger (Trustee and Heritage Lead)



Thank you