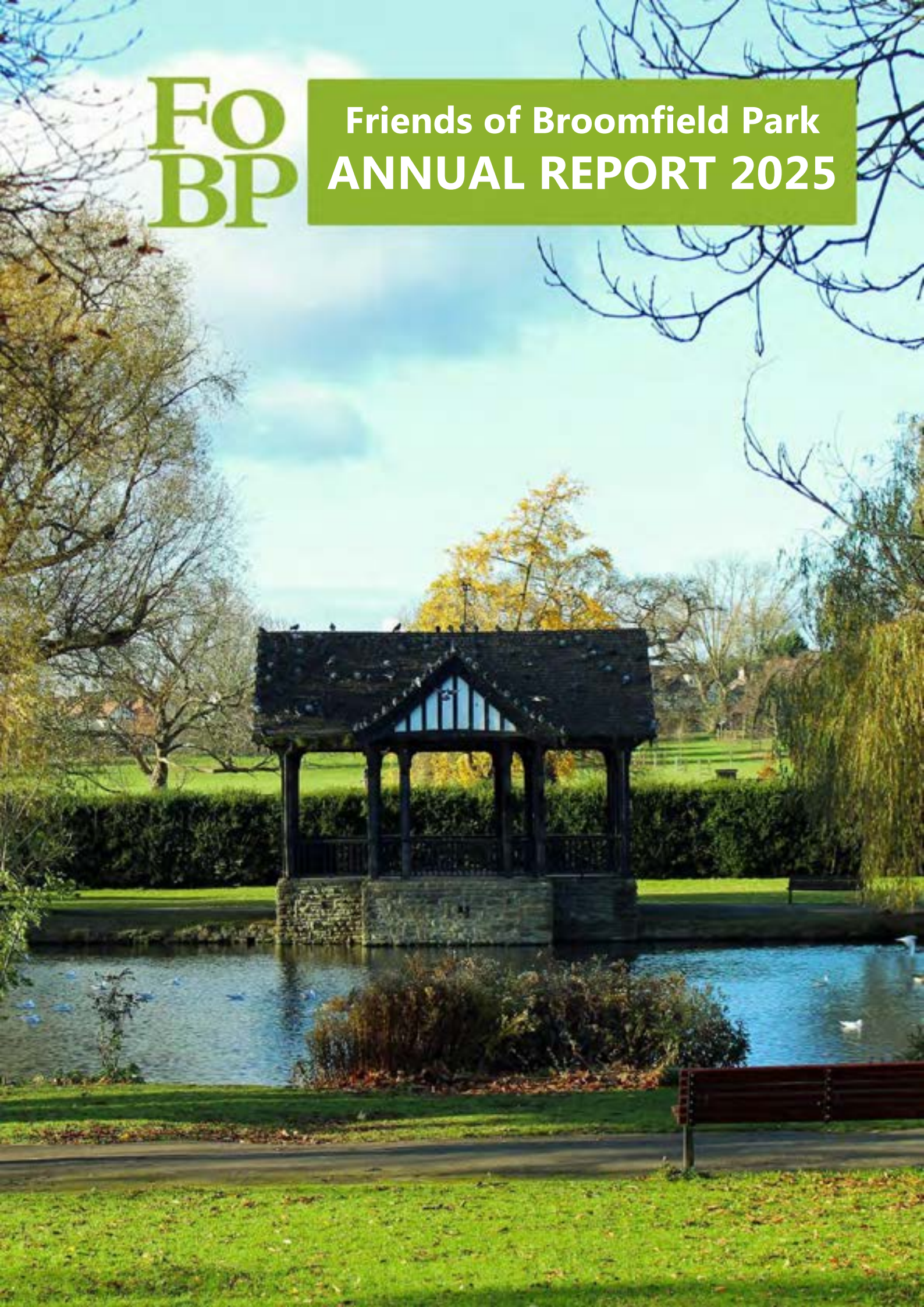


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**Friends of Broomfield Park
ANNUAL REPORT 2025**





Co-Chairs Introduction

A huge amount of work has taken place during this past year, and it has been wonderful to see the sheer breadth and depth of everything that's been achieved.

The award winning horticultural and habitats activity has again secured well-deserved recognition from the Enfield in Bloom scheme with six awards - a fine tribute to the hard work and dedication of our team of volunteers.

It has been a delight to see our park filled with so many happy people at the huge number of community events this year - from music in the conservatory, to celebrations in the orchard, blues on the bandstand and the huge success of the Palmers Green Festival. This year has seemed busier than ever with a diverse programme of community events.

As well as these more visible results of the Friends of Broomfield Park's volunteer activity, this year has also seen a vast amount of detailed background work developing the strength of our organisation - registering as a charity and preparing our statutory policies.

Whilst this report showcases specific volunteering roles, the real impact of the Friends of Broomfield Park is not a series of isolated outcomes, but a mutually reinforcing ecosystem of community benefits. The park contributes to visitors' physical health, mental wellbeing, and community connections and these benefits are deeply intertwined, with the strength of each dependent on the others. For example extensive background work with Enfield Council on restoring the boating pond was necessary for the model boating club to return. Ongoing maintenance of horticulture in the park make it an attractive place to visit and enable the park to serve as a venue for large-scale events that bring people together, creating the social connections that are vital for a sense of community.

As the year draws to a close we, as Co-Chairs, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every volunteer who has contributed to making Broomfield Park the beautiful, healthy and friendly oasis at the heart of the Palmers Green Community. Of Course this wouldn't have been possible without our friends and partner organisations and in particular our ongoing partnership with Enfield Council.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F Cilliers'.

Finula Cilliers

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David March'.

David March

Co Chairs Friends of Broomfield Park

Friends of Broomfield Park Annual Report 2025

Structure, governance and management

The first annual report for The Friends of Broomfield Park CIO

- **Governing Document** The governing document of The Trust is the CIO Association Constitution Registered with Charity Commission 13th November 2024 as amended 22nd July 2025.
- **Charity's Structure and Governance:** The Friends of Broomfield Park is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members. The original Trustees were those selected by the members of the predecessor organisation (FoBP an unincorporated association), additional trustees have been co-opted by the Trustees during the current year based on their expertise in specific areas,
- **Trustee Details:** A list of the charity trustees who served during the year.

NAME	ROLE	DATE APPOINTED
Penelope Austin	Membership	18 October 2024
Finula Cilliers	Co-Chair & Treasurer	12 October 2024
Deborah Dalglish	Volunteer Coordinator	11 March 2025
Dr. Kim Lumley*	Apiary and Habitats	18 October 2024
David March*	Co-Chair	12 October 2024
Richard McKeever	Communications	18 October 2024
Helen Mitchell	Education	18 October 2024
Elena Phrydas	Lakes Team	18 October 2024
Andrew Polycarpou	Special Projects	18 October 2024
Jean Thomas	Deputy Treasurer	18 October 2024
David Williamson	Secretary	12 October 2024
Colin Younger*	Heritage	22 July 2025

* Also Trustee of Broomfield House Trust

- **Aims and Objectives:** To promote and encourage the conservation, preservation and improvement of Broomfield Park ('the park') to ensure that the park remains and is enhanced as an area of natural beauty, a habitat for wildlife and an attractive parkland and public amenity and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of all local residents and especially individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- **Financial Review:** As a newly constituted CIO our financial report is not yet due to be submitted to the Charity Commission. A separate report will detail the financial situation at the closure of the predecessor unincorporated association.

- **Public Benefit Statement:** The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the objects and activities of FoBP and in planning its future activities.

In particular, the Trustees have considered how our activities contribute to our charitable purposes for the public benefit. Specifically, the organisation serves the public by protecting, preserving, and improving Broomfield Park for recreation, education, and environmental conservation, ultimately enhancing the community's quality of life and well-being through its public events and other functions.

Our volunteer-led activity has succeeded in promoting health through park use, safeguarding the park's natural habitats and historic features, and educating visitors on the park's value.



Report On Activities And Achievements:

Our diverse and extensive work is reported below, This document sets out our work in the following sections outlining what we as an organisation have collectively achieved over the last year.

- **We have established a strong organisation**
- **We preserve and enhance the horticulture and biodiversity of the park**
- **We engage and connect park visitors with community events**
- **We nurture and inform through educational and artistic initiatives**
- **We convene and support community volunteers generating a significant impact for individuals, the park, and the wider community**
- **We work in partnership to advocate for Broomfield Park and its visitors.**
- **We plan for the future**

We have established a strong organisation:

Restructuring The **Friends of Broomfield Park** as a constituted charity and ensuring our organisation is ready to provide “future-proof” advocacy for the park and its users has been a key strand of work over the last year. Registered charitable status (CIO) was achieved in Autumn 2024 and subsequent engagement with the Charity Commission has updated our constitution, strengthened the Trustee team and lodged the required policies and procedures with the Commission.

Further work on Governance of the organisation is planned as we merge FoBP with the **Broomfield House Trust** to reflect the changing situation in relation to the park and the house. To ensure the smooth transition the Trustees have co-opted Colin Younger as an additional trustee to share his extensive experience of the heritage developments around Broomfield House and the park.

We have established network meetings with representatives of each of the volunteer groups and introduced regular updates of volunteer activity shared amongst the wider membership. This strand of work has been strengthened with the co-option of Deborah Dalglish as a new Trustee with responsibility as Volunteer Co-Ordinator.

In partnership with the **London Borough of Enfield** we have developed a coordinated register of park management issues to monitor work priorities.

A generous personal donation has enabled the Friends of Broomfield Park to establish a **Connections Fund**, supporting new initiatives which extend current activities to attract new participants and collaborate with other local organisations.

We Preserve and Enhance the Horticulture and Biodiversity in Broomfield Park:

FoBP volunteer work on horticultural and biodiversity projects ensure that the park remains as an area of natural beauty, with enhanced habitats for wildlife. Overall it remains an attractive parkland and public amenity.

Volunteering is varied and sustained throughout the year, the range of activities include the **Horticulture Group** caring for historic Walled Gardens and Long Border. The warm, dry spring resulted in a beautiful rose display this year.

A dedicated and growing group of volunteers nurtures the **Community Orchard**, a space created in 2009 on a former bowling green. The Apiary has been very productive this year with three large bee colonies.



The **Conservatory Group** holds regular "work-ins" to keep it looking at its best for visitors and the growing number of public events hosted throughout the year.

A donated Moonflower plant was a notable recent addition which has thrived under the care of Conservatory volunteers.

Volunteers also assist with the creation of diverse habitats including the wetlands, a wildlife pond, and the wildflower meadow.



The **Habitats Group** continues to boost biodiversity by managing the Wetlands alongside **Enfield Council**.

Volunteers maintain the wildflower meadow to support pollinators and butterflies. During 2025 more butterfly species have been seen than in the previous two years.

Volunteers perform rotational maintenance on the wildlife pond and hedges, as well as tree planting and upkeep.

The **Lakes Team** has been actively supporting nesting birds, including enhancing the two large resting platforms, which are being used by Egyptian goslings and others. Monthly water quality tests are ongoing, and monitoring of water quality continues with Thames Water, Thames 21 and the Environment Agency. The team also works with The River Lea Guardians Swan Sanctuary for advice and ideas to improve water quality and to deal with bird rescues and welfare.



Achieving six **Enfield in Bloom Awards** in three different categories indicates the quality of the horticultural volunteer work. In the 2025 Award we achieved our best ever results. Three Golds, two Silvers and a Bronze – recognising the exceptional quality of horticultural maintenance and improvement across all of Broomfield Park's volunteer projects.

In the category "Exceptional Horticultural Contribution for the Local Community" both the Broomfield Park walled garden and Conservatory won gold awards. A silver award for the **Broomfield Park Community Orchard** completes the Broomfield hat-trick in this category.

Two projects were recognised in the "Best Environmental / Wildlife Garden" with the **Wildflower Meadow** awarded silver and the wildlife pond achieving the third Broomfield Gold Award. The Broomfield Park **Community Growing Space** was awarded bronze in the "Best Innovative Growing Space" section.

The awards are a testament to the hugely impressive work of FoBP volunteer groups who work tirelessly to nurture and cherish our park. Alongside the volunteers, resident horticulturalist Victoria Black and the **Enfield Council Parks Management Team** and gardeners must also be celebrated for their work on these projects.

We Engage and Connect Park Visitors with Community Events:



A large and diverse programme of FoBP events were organised throughout the year in the orchard, conservatory, former bowling green and bandstand. Over 30 public events ranged from the sombre and formal Armistice Day service in the **Remembrance Garden** to the joyful children's 'Teddy Bear's Picnic', and include community choir concerts, theatre, live jazz and funk music over the summer. The popular **Broomfield Blues** returned in August and was very well attended.

The **Community Orchard's** 'Summer Picnic' in July was very successful and well-attended, featuring six musical acts. Apple Day in September was another entertaining and celebratory event. In **The Conservatory**, local musicians performed to a good crowd, and popular Tomato and Chili and house plant sales were sell-out events. Following the renovation of the historic Model Boating Pond, the **Broomfield Model Boat Club** is back on the water for the public to enjoy on Sunday mornings.



The weather was kind for the **Palmers Green Festival** in September. This was our largest festival to date, Broomfield Park welcomed an estimated 8,000 visitors throughout the day, enjoying the funfair, artisan food and drink, Vintage Village, Family Zone, and crafts, as well as Art Exhibition, live music and dance, donkey rides and much more at this volunteer-led, free event for all the family.



In addition to the **FoBP** organised events, Broomfield Park hosted several community engagement events promoting the **Unlocking Broomfield Park** project focussed on Broomfield House these included history walks and talks, mural painting and an archeological dig.



In each of these ongoing activities, volunteers are responsible for setting up, running, and promoting the park's numerous events. The number of community events has significantly increased this year, attendance numbers have grown, and satisfaction levels in post-event surveys demonstrate that participants and audiences value the events staged in Broomfield Park.

We Nurture and Inform Through Educational and Artistic Initiatives



The 2025 school visits programme successfully hosted 60 children from **Bowes Primary School** for workshops on Wetlands, Birds / Lakes, Apiary, and Orchard / Wildflowers. Feedback from children, parents, and teachers was very positive. In the Conservatory, a Children's Tree Trail was organised for spring half-term.

The **Unlocking Broomfield** project supported visits from Year 5 pupils at **Hazelwood School** for trial archaeological excavations and gave a talk to **Laurel Park School** on Broomfield House. The mural project and an archaeology dig are also helping to generate public interest in the Broomfield House project.

The Orchard's **Duke of Edinburgh Award** volunteering programme remains popular with a regular group of young people in attendance. Weekly Art Activity Sessions held by the Friends of Broomfield Park for clients and carers of the Bourne Hill and Queen Anne's Care Homes and the local Mental Health Trust provide a space for inspiring and transformative creativity by the participants. The Group were excited to exhibit their art at The Southgate Club over the summer.



FOBP
Friends of
Broomfield Park

We Convene and Support Community Volunteers Generating a Significant Impact for Individuals, The Park, and The Wider Community

Volunteers remain the lifeblood of the park. Estimated calculations of the number of volunteers and the time they commit to the park reveal the value that volunteering generates in our community, a total of over £347,000.

Activity	Hours per day	Person days per year	Total hours	Hourly Rate *	Total
Adult Mental Health	4	20	80	20	£1,600
Apiary	4	100	400	20	£8,000
Chair/s	3	50	150	20	£3,000
Comms Lead	6	50	300	20	£6,000
Conservatory	4	365	1460	20	£29,200
Duke Of Edinburgh Scheme	4	60	240	20	£4,800
Habitats	4	160	640	20	£12,800
HLF Project	4	40	160	20	£3,200
Horticulture	3	750	2250	20	£45,000
Horticulture Admin	8	50	400	20	£8,000
Lakes	4	200	800	20	£16,000
Orchard	6	100	600	20	£12,000
Other Organisational Duties	6	50	300	20	£6,000
Palmers Greenery Community Café	6	630	3780	20	£75,600
Palmers Green Festival (Admin)	4	80	320	20	£6,400
Palmers Green Festival (Event)	6	240	1440	20	£28,800
School Visits	5	24	120	20	£2,400
Secretary	6	100	600	20	£12,000
SEN Group	6	20	120	20	£2,400
Special Projects	4	30	120	20	£2,400
Summer Events	5	420	2100	20	£42,000
Summer Events (Admin)	4	56	224	20	£4,480
Treasurer	4	50	200	20	£4,000
Trees	4	75	300	20	£6,000
Trustees	4	72	288	20	£5,760
TOTALS		3,792	17,392		£347,840

* National Lottery Heritage fund uses £20 per hour as rate to calculate value of volunteer work www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/volunteers

Events this summer including the **Palmers Green Festival** have been made possible by a large team of FoBP volunteers, 20 young 'festival makers', and a further group of volunteers from partner organisations.



The ongoing maintenance of the Long Border, Historic Walled Garden and general horticulture volunteering, as well as wildlife habitats in the park and the orchard and conservatory depend on our committed volunteer cohort and their expertise applied to the consistent and regular work on these projects throughout the year.



Additionally we value the support of external corporate volunteers on targeted projects in the park from businesses including HSBC, BNP Paribas, and Oakland Care Homes.

The Value of Volunteering

On the following page we review the work of volunteers in Broomfield Park and analyse the difference this work is making to the park and the wider Palmers Green Community.

Broomfield Park: The Power of Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart of the park. Based on the most recent estimates, their passion and hard work will generate an astonishing **£347,840** in value for our community. This figure, calculated using the **National Lottery Heritage Fund's** standard rate of £20 per hour, showcases their immense contribution.

The Big Numbers

- **£347,840** - Total estimated value of volunteer work.
- **17,392** - Total hours contributed by the volunteer team.
- **3,792** - Total number of "person days" dedicated to the park.

Where Does the Value Come From?

The time and skills contributed by volunteers span every aspect of the park's life. The efforts can be seen in the following main areas:

Horticulture, Gardening and Maintenance (5,250 hours)

This is the largest area of contribution, with a regular timetable throughout the year. The figure combines all horticultural work in the park including the weekly opening of the Conservatory and Orchard. Volunteers are directly responsible for keeping the park's grounds beautiful and thriving for visitors to enjoy.

Palmers Greenery Community Café (3,780 hours)

Although operating as a distinct organisation from FoBP there is enormous overlap and synergy between the projects - and a simple measure of volunteer time does not capture the value of community connections formed and nurtured by Cafe volunteers.

Community Events (3,540 hours)

Volunteers are the driving force behind the park's vibrant events calendar. This includes a massive 2,100 hours for Summer Events and another 1,440 hours for the Palmers Green Festival, creating memorable experiences that bring the whole community together.

Park Environment & Features (2,740 hours)

Beyond general horticultural maintenance and gardening, specialised teams dedicate thousands of hours to maintaining the park's unique features. This includes crucial work on the Lakes, Apiary, Trees, and protecting natural habitats.

Arts and Education Activities (440 hours)

Broomfield Park is a valuable resource for community learning - including for our primary school visitors and Duke of Edinburgh Award participants. Volunteers also support inclusive creative arts activities for regular groups.

Governance & Administration (2,580 hours)

The essential work behind the scenes includes the Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Finance, plus events and festival administration, ensuring planned activities can run effectively.



More Than Just Gardening

Volunteering in a local park may be envisaged as planting, weeding, digging and all the other elements of caring for trees and plants - and in Broomfield Park there is an enormous amount of time spent on these tasks. However, volunteers also take on a range of more specialist environmental work looking after the conservatory, the orchard, the wetlands and wildflower meadows as well as securing biodiversity through managing wildlife habitats and maintaining the lakes for waterfowl in partnership with **The Environment Agency** and **Thames Water**.

In addition to all this practical work, the data reveals that volunteering at Broomfield Park is also contributing to building a stronger, more connected local community.

Key activities include:

- **Social and Wellbeing Programmes:** Running dedicated sessions for **School Visits**, **Adult Mental Health** groups, and the **Special Educational Needs Group**.
- **Youth Development:** Supporting young people by hosting the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** scheme and the **Make Space for Girls** project.
- **Strategic Planning:** Looking to the future with work on **Special Projects** and the National Lottery Heritage Fund Project **Unlocking Broomfield Park**.

In short, the dedication of volunteers makes Broomfield Park more than just a green space; it makes it a vital community asset.

We Work in Partnership with Others to Advocate for Broomfield Park and its Visitors

London Borough of Enfield: FoBP trustees and Enfield Council officers have reinforced a shared commitment to improving the park. A reporting system monitoring issues of park maintenance has been established. The value of the volunteer 'multiplier effect' in horticulture was also recognised as a successful model by Enfield Council. Throughout the year our day-to-day interactions with the dedicated park staff are vital to our continuing support for the Park.



Unlocking Broomfield House: A considerable amount of time has been committed to share FoBP's experience and knowledge about the park with the Design Team leading the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** project.

FoBP joined a project steering group with other community representatives to ensure a co-design process. This engagement will continue through to the funding bid planned for May 2026 and beyond into the construction phase. The Friends of Broomfield Park has been actively supporting community engagement activity and promoting the Unlocking Broomfield programme and its events.

Palmers Greenery Community Café: The café refurbishment was successfully completed following a temporary pop-up at the Bowls Club. Having engaged with local schools to survey students on their use and preferences for the park, the team is now moving forward with the 'Make Space for Girls' project to create an area welcoming to teenage girls, non-binary teens and boys for whom the standard provision in parks (MUGAs, pitches, fenced areas etc) don't work.

Statutory Agencies Alongside our ongoing work with **Enfield Council** The Friends of Broomfield Park work with the **Environment Agency**, **Thames Water**, and **Thames 21** to monitor the water quality in the Lakes and Wetlands to ensure a healthy environment for waterfowl and support biodiversity.

Park Users and Visitors We are reliant on our local community to continue our work. We communicate through newsletters, social media and discussions at park events. In addition, during the last year, there were four public events: A community consultation about becoming a charity at **The Ruth Winston Centre**; two **Unlocking Broomfield** consultation events in the park and the presence of FoBP all day at the **Palmers Green Festival** we will continue our partnerships with local schools community groups and individuals in the forthcoming year.

Looking Ahead

The Friends of Broomfield Park having established our organisation as a registered charity have built a firm foundation on which to face the future. Our new status enables a more secure management of increasingly large events and makes fundraising efforts to fund our future work more straightforward.

We are delighted that real progress is being made on the future of Broomfield House. FoBP trustees and volunteers have worked with the **Unlocking Broomfield House** project team and contributed to the consultations through written responses and detailed workshops. The future of the House and that area of the park will be a major theme of work in the next few years and we will be actively following the work and reporting back to members, volunteers and the wider community. In the next year we will be progressing the formal connections between FoBP and the **Broomfield House Trust**.

Our partnership with the **Palmers Greenery Community Café** will continue and develop; The Greenery has been a generous supporter of projects in the park and we will be working with them as the innovative “**Make Space for Girls**” project comes to fruition.

Our relationship with the **London Borough of Enfield** is positive and we will work with them to establish an initial maintenance plan for Broomfield Park with a coordinated approach to efficiently managing maintenance and upgrades.

We will continue to support and help develop our wonderful volunteers and work to communicate the impressive range of activity undertaken by our individual projects. A generous donation has enabled us to set up a new funding stream which will support ways to engage new visitors to the park.

Overall the Friends of Broomfield Park will continue to advocate for the park, its users, the birds, insects and wildlife that make Broomfield Park a very special place in the heart of Palmers Green.



The Friends of Broomfield Park



We are a dedicated volunteer group committed to preserving and enhancing Broomfield Park in Palmers Green, North London.

Broomfield Park is a historic and scenic green space featuring beautiful plant borders, open landscapes, lakes, sports facilities and a playground for children.

Through fundraising, advocacy, and hands-on projects, The Friends of Broomfield Park play a crucial role in maintaining this cherished green space for future generations.

Keep in touch with our ongoing work:

- FoBP website www.fobp.uk
- Follow us on Social Media @Friends of Broomfield Park

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