



*friends of*  
**Waterlow Park**  
Annual General Meeting 2026

Report on the year May 2025 to April 2026

27 May 2026

# YOUR COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES

with **Highlights of the Year** from @waterlowpark on X

## Membership

By May 1st our membership had increased to nearly 200, the highest it has ever been. The members are very supportive not only through donations, but also by helping with events and by the incredible amount of gardening they do. We have to thank all our members for all the support you have given us over the year.

## Horticulture

We continue to benefit from the dedication of our gardening volunteers to maintain ornamental beds in the park & the Community Orchard. We were joined for part of the year by a young volunteer from the Harington Project & their care worker. More volunteers are welcome to help us cope with the increasing area we maintain. Our aim is to create sustainable beds which require a 'lighter touch' but of course it takes quite a lot of work to get to that stage.

This year saw a sustained push to renovate the parterres on the Lower Terrace & we are pleased to say that we are very nearly there.

We are periodically helped by Corporate Volunteer groups who come with some funding to provide resources for their activities. This year we had a group from Deutsch Bank. The Good Gym came twice - Wednesday evening & Saturday morning when they helped to plant spring flowering bulbs.

In collaboration with idverde gardeners we began the huge task of dealing with the couch grass invasion of the Eagle Steps Borders. In the large bare area in the north bed we will direct sow sunflower seeds at the beginning of May.

It is becoming a challenge to mow around the larger trees in the community orchard so we have agreed that the idverde gardeners will just mow the central area and leave the grass under the trees to grow long – hopefully this will also benefit biodiversity.

The Fund Raising Activities linked to Garden Volunteering are covered below.

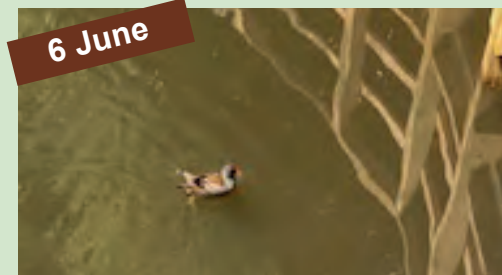
We are hugely appreciative of the support given to us by the idverde team in the park and also park users who support our fund raising events. It is also very pleasing to receive positive feedback about our work in the park.



Sales ( in 11months) raised £11,700+ for the Park, double last year

### *Big Bulb Sale at Lauderdale House*

3 likes /1k views



Friends take a stall at Highgate's Fair in the Square run Nature Quiz and land major donation

### *Leaving the ducks to join Fair in the Square*

1 likes / 182 views

## Volunteers

Our first fund-raising sale last year was on 31 May 2025 with a plentiful supply of propagated plants producing a profit of £3750 for the park. The Big Bulb Sale followed on 20 September and raised profits of £3633. We also bought over 3400 bulbs to plant in the park which have contributed a spectacular display this year.

The Sale on 6 December of Christmas Wreaths, decorations and stocking fillers made by volunteers from natural park flora was a sell-out. It made a profit just short of £2,000 for the park. The Next Plant Sale is Saturday 30 May 2026. As always all proceeds go to plants and projects in the park.

All sales took place at Lauderdale House to whom we are most grateful. And thanks go to Lux who loaned their conservatory for our winter workshop.

## Events

We again took a stall at the 7 June Fair in the Square offering plants for sale and a Nature Quiz. We also secured a handsome donation from a major financial institution to go towards paying for an outdoor table tennis table.

On 19 July at Lauderdale House nature conservation consultant Steve Bolton gave a fascinating, illustrated talk on Butterflies, spotting and identifying them, and returned 26 July (without the presence of the previous heavy rain) for a rewarding butterfly-spotting walk, when seven species were identified and advice given on butterfly-friendly plants. One attendee offered to coordinate further surveying, with details to be on the FoWP website, and a schedule of monthly monitoring started in April 2026.

In August we held three free public concerts, enjoyed by about 200 people at any one time and marked 60 years of Camden Council with a nod to 1960s music from talented young Mini Mozart and Royal Academy trained musicians. We welcomed the Joe English Jazz Quartet (for a second time) plus the Duo Tanwen (harp and flute) and trombone quartet Funny Bones.

This was our fifth season and Camden gave us useful funding once again. Plus our thanks as always go to the Park garden staff, Lauderdale House and the regular Friends volunteers.

On Saturday 26 February 2026 The Friends again took a stall at the Lauderdale House Heritage Weekend and featured a New Life of Sir Sydney by Pam Cooper, with Pam in attendance.



AGM welcomes Prof Duckett

**AGM – Everything Green in Waterlow Park**  
3 likes / 347 views



Campaign with TAG to get View of St Paul's listed

**We are working to get the view listed**  
17 likes / 9.7k views

## Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Survey results on a large proportion of the park have been submitted to GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC) and are now on the website. Further help is being sought from local schools as well as existing volunteers to try and complete the flora side of the survey by the end of 2026. Biodiversity surveying resumed 12 April 2025 after a first-time flowering bulbs survey was completed.

Botanical surveying will hopefully be resumed for the 2026 season, according to demand. News of any biodiversity activities will be put on the FoWP website and into the Biodiversity Group email.

## Projects

### Signage for the Park

Your chair met together with a representative from LUX, K Ives, Lauderdale House and Martin Payne, Camden's Greenspace Partnership Officer for several meetings over the year to plan signage for the park (last of these was on 9 April 2026). Costings came in at £10,417 to create and install five signposts. Friends will cover installation at c.£1550 and contributions are also being sought from Highgate Cemetery and Lauderdale House. The signpost plan and costings have been submitted to Camden and approved. A fuller guide for disabled users will be developed and a QR put on the noticeboards.

### Outdoor Table Tennis

Following the offer of the donation the Friends submitted a proposal for the installation of the outdoor table tennis table in the park and at Camden's request took public soundings on the idea which came out in its favour. The Trust Advisory Group also got approval from its members to pass on to Camden.

The donation towards the outdoor table tennis table arrived at the end of February 2026 and Camden has purchased the table. The Friends will cover the installation costs of approximately at £1885. Lush Landscapes are due to install the table in May 2026 next to the pétanque pitch. It will be in place for an initial trial period.

28 June



Butterfly Workshop & follow-up walk round

*Will the Butterfly Workshop say this is best spot ?*

5 likes / 167 views

31 August



Fifth Summer Concert Season in the Park

*Thank-you Funny Bones for a great finale.*

1 likes / 121 views

## The Committee

### Annual General Meeting

The 11 June 2025 AGM welcomed Botany emeritus professor Jeff Duckett as keynote speaker who spoke to *Everything Green in Waterlow Park*, past and future. TAG gave their annual update. And your committee presented the year's happenings and finances.

### Other Groups

On 11 February 2026 Dan Thompson founder of London Routes attended the committee meeting to update us on the proposed new London Routes programme which will include Waterlow Park and has had the benefit of input from park historian Pam Cooper. Dan hopes to launch the first curated walks in the Autumn of 2026.

Committee invited Emily Candler, new Head of Public Programmes at Highgate Cemetery to address our 10 April meeting.

Committee members contributed to an updated Barbeque Working Group Report and meetings on progressing the prospective LUNA sculpture donation from the Charlotte Mayer family.

Committee members attended former Head Park Gardener, Mark Walters' funeral and planted a tree in the park in his memory.

### Occasional Volunteers Sought

The Friends have put out several calls for occasional volunteering help with individual events such as the Heritage Weekend (Feb), the Dog Show (April), the Fair in the Square (June) and the three August concerts. Enquiries are welcomed at [chair@waterlowpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@waterlowpark.org.uk)

### Communications

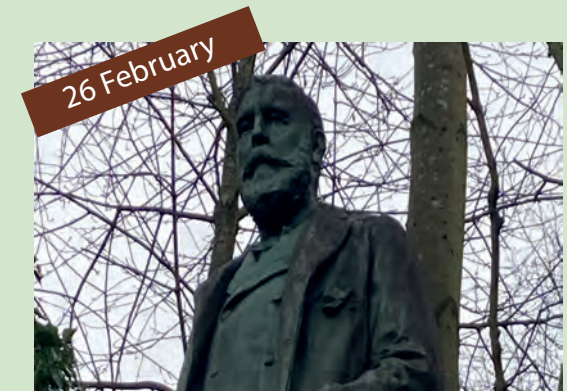
Besides occasional emails to members of the Friends, regular news posts are put on the website and on X (formerly Twitter). Reciprocal posts and Followers would be welcome on X @waterlowpark.



Table Tennis Table donated. Public engagement held.

*Anyone for Table Tennis?*

1 likes / 68 views



Friends take a stall at Heritage Weekend

*New Life of Sir Sydney by Pam Cooper*

3 likes / 75 views

## Finance

Interim figures for the eleven months to March 2026 are very pleasing.  
The full Financial Report will be delivered separately at the AGM and posted on the website.

<b>All sales</b>	<b>£11,718 (£5,689)</b>
Subscriptions and Donations	£1,430 (£1,566)
Concert Grant from Camden	£800
Corporate volunteers	£350 (£845)

Sales are double the whole of last year and total gross income is up over 50 per cent.

## Camden and the Park

Other things went on during the year that were outside the remit of the Friends.

Camden as I'm sure you know are the custodians of the park and their Head of Green Spaces Oliver Jones is the Park's sole Trustee. The council last year took the decision not to introduce a permanent ban on barbecues but instead brought in a temporary ban. This has been extended this calendar year and the matter is then under review.

Thanks to Camden we now have an upgraded and safer play area for the Under Fives.

More swings are particularly pleasing.

And finally, after much cogitation, an acceptable styling was devised to achieve a level entrance for all from Highgate High Street, especially welcome for prams and buggies.



Borough rejects call to make  
BBQ ban permanent

1 likes / 147 views



Playground improved for Under Fives

7 likes / 178 views

## THE PARK'S YEAR

The park itself has its own year and brings us changing delights throughout. These we relay as much as possible to the public on X. Here's one of the delightful lilac bushes where James Shelton's song made famous by Elkie Brooks seemed a fitting caption.

We publicise every so often the park's offering of sports and play grounds. And hopefully by the time of this annual general meeting we will have added an outdoor table tennis table thanks in part to a generous corporate donation, with contributions from the Friends and Camden.

We continue to emphasise that Waterlow Park is a great place for picnics, even if BBQs are not on the menu at the moment.

And a nice reminder about the pétanque pitch, with boules provided for free use.

We owe a big debt to the care given to the park via Camden Green Spaces, the id verde contractors and our own Friends gardening volunteers who look after the majority of the borders and much besides.

There was about one snow shower in the year so we had to get a bit excited as well as telling folk to take care on the hilly parts.

And finally as we came to Easter the park's most stunning cherry tree was in full bloom.

And there we end the year. Thankyou.



It's snowed!

**Take care on the hilly parts!**

5 likes / 168 views



Waterlow Park's beautiful cherry tree.

**Happy Easter to all!**

11 likes/108 views