



Friends of St. James's Park and The Green Park
Registered Charity No. 1000751

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Throughout the year the Executive Committee has continued to focus on our key aims to protect and promote the buildings and open spaces through high standards of planning and design, to uphold our role as a Westminster City Council official planning consultee, to educate and encourage interest in the architecture, history and natural history and build and empower the local community and encourage pride in the area known as Thorney Island.

The Executive Committee which meets every two months spent over 2,300 volunteer hours in running the society in 2018-2019 responding to planning applications, organising visits, communicating with members and the wider community through newsletters and social media, attending meetings of organisations of which we are members including the Royal Parks, the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies and the Westminster Amenity Societies Forum. We have a great sense of pride in what we have achieved this year. Our Membership Secretary, Anthony Harrow, retires after 14 years of service and the committee is aware that we must attract new blood if the society is to continue beyond the celebrations of our thirty fifth anniversary in 2020 - T@35.

Membership of important umbrella groups with shared concerns means the society has more influence, particularly on planning issues. With others we have contributed to the Mayor's draft London Plan raising the concern about tall buildings and the problem of 'verified views' for planning applications. These can be misleading as we have seen with the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre because they are taken with wide angle camera lenses. The society commented on 60 planning proposals during the year.

We appreciate the continuing support of the Blue Orchid Hotel Group in providing the Pavilion Restaurant for the society's parties and in sponsoring our AGM. We are delighted to have entered into a more formal corporate partnership with the group and in 2019-20 work will begin on digitalising archive resources and developing a new website. A new phase for the society and an opportunity to build our membership and secure our future.

Sue Ball
Chair