



# THE JOHN INNES SOCIETY

FOR CONSERVATION IN THE JOHN INNES ESTATE AT MERTON

Registered Charity No. 803759

## TRUSTEES FOR 2023/2024

### Officers:

Co-Chair Alison Cousins  
Co-Chair Desé Child  
Vice-Chair Ingrid Holtz  
Hon. Secretary Tim Fripp  
Hon. Treasurer Vicky Kelly

### Committee members:

Catherine Bottrill Ann Redfearn  
Hubert Child Katherine Welch  
Helene Nelson-Jones

Hon. Auditor: Mr. F. Rayner

**The 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 8pm  
at Merton Park Primary School**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023
3. To receive the Annual Report for 2023
4. To receive the Accounts for 2023 and the Auditor's Report and confirm the appointment of the Auditor for 2024
5. Motions:
  - (a) Involving a change in the Constitution and Rules of the Society: .
  - (b) Other motions not involving a change of the Constitution and Rules. (*Any motion in this category should be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary not less than 7 days before the meeting.*)
6. To elect the Officers (Officers are elected for one year).
7. To elect the remaining Members of the Committee  
(Under the existing Constitution members serve for one year and are eligible to be nominated for re-election. Under **rule 8** the permissible number of Committee members, other than the officers, is **12**. Nominations are therefore sought for all 12 positions.)
8. Any other business

### Notes:

Every member whose subscription is paid up to date at the time of the AGM shall be entitled to vote on each motion – Rule 3.

Nominees proposed as officers or members of the Committee must be over 18 years old and must be fully paid-up members of the Society. It is not necessary for the proposer or seconder or their nominee to be present at the meeting at which the election takes place. Nominations must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 – Rules 7 and 8.

**Tim Fripp, Hon. Secretary, 16 Melrose Road, Merton Park SW19 3HG**

***After the meeting there will be a talk by Tudor Jones entitled "Who lived here?  
The family history of first residents of one house in our garden suburb."  
Then there is an opportunity to socialise while enjoying a glass of wine or soft drink.***

**PLEASE BRING THIS INSERT CONTAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS WITH YOU TO THE AGM**

THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION AND RULES CAN BE SEEN VIA THE SOCIETY WEBSITE UNDER 'About Us / How we are run'.  
USE LINK : <https://www.johninnesociety.org.uk/legal-stuff> MEMBERS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS MAY OBTAIN A PAPER COPY OF THE EXISTING  
CONSTITUTION AND RULES FROM A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Data Protection All personal information supplied to the Society by members will be used solely for communications with them concerning the Society's Governance, Membership, Events and matters concerning the Society. It will not be shared with any other organisation except where there is a Statutory obligation to do so.

## JOHN INNES SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> December 2023.

### Financial Situation

The Society's finances continue to be healthy. Total income from all sources more than covered our costs of running the Society and of our activities described elsewhere in this report. Our chief sources of income are members' subscriptions with associated Gift Aid, together with proceeds from events like plant sales and the Bridge group. The John Innes Centre continues to give us an annual donation and this year they kindly increased their donation to £600. We are also receiving higher levels of interest on our reserves after several years with minimal interest.

Our largest running costs relate to the Coach House in Melrose Road which we lease from London Borough of Merton. Many costs obviously rise with inflation; for example, our electricity charges have nearly doubled. This year we also had to arrange for an inspection of the electrical installation which then required some remedial works, at a total spend of £1,620. Better news was that our regular insurance company, Zurich Insurance, reviewed their policy on premiums and we were very pleased to be offered the same cover as in previous years but at a significantly lower premium of £382, as compared with £1,728 in 2022.

For many years we have held most of our longer-term funds with Virgin Money in a charity deposit account. This year we decided to move half of these funds from Virgin Money to CCLA Investment Management, who specialise in investing on behalf of Churches, Charities and Local Authorities. This is bringing us a greater level of interest while still at a comparatively low level of risk.

### Membership

Our membership numbers fell slightly by around 2.5% to 385 subscribers covering 681 members. The decrease is mainly due to new members not compensated by deceased members, many of them long-standing, or those moving out of the area. Where we know of new residents, we put a welcome pack in their mailbox to encourage them to join and hope that members with neighbours who are new to the area will mention the society to them and refer them to the website or contact the membership secretary. We are of course particularly keen to attract younger residents.

### Events

The annual Spring Plant Sale was very successful but the Autumn Bring and Buy sale was replaced by a coffee morning and an ever-popular cake stall in the Coach House. The AGM in April was again well attended and followed by a talk on heat pumps. We revived our Music in the Park event on one of the hottest days of the year and despite a disappointing take-up, everyone enjoyed hearing a new orchestra. We held a book launch for the latest publication by one of our members. We enjoyed an in-depth talk on The Gothic Revival from a local speaker. The annual Discovery Day at Morden Library was very busy and profitable for us. We finished the year with a short reception to thank all our volunteers for their input.

### Planning

2023 was a year when people tried to catch up with their lives and plans which had been on hold during the Covid pandemic. There were a number of over-ambitious proposals to extend homes which would have had an adverse impact not only on the character of the area but also on the amenities of their neighbours. We supported neighbours in lodging objections and although some plans were approved, quite a few were refused by the Council planners. It was gratifying to see most of the refusals were also turned down on appeal.

We commented on major developments proposed for The White Hart site on Kingston Road, the Wimbledon Chase Station site and a hotel proposed for 18-22 Crown Lane in Morden. Quite apart from damage to local character, we are also concerned how often developers and Council planners, in their push to provide more units of accommodation, fail to take into consideration living

conditions for future occupiers. Many of the flats at Wimbledon Chase, and some of the student rooms at the former White Hart, will have very unsatisfactory outlooks and at the White Hart site, noise and poor air quality from being on a congested main road junction. Both these sites now have planning approval, despite their shortcomings.

Everyone wants good mobile phone connectivity, but we joined with others in successfully objecting to a new monopole tower mast on Morden Road, which would have been right beside the bedrooms of the adjacent home. There are many masts in the area already, and providers should be encouraged to share them for additional equipment, rather than looking for more new sites.

### Area Embellishment

The committee was given a presentation by the Friends of Kendor Gardens, regarding their aims and objectives which will enable us to budget better for them. Merton Council's tree officer took a few committee members around part of the area to discuss their procedures and planting schedules and assured us of a successful liaison regarding reporting tree damage and neglect. But we are still concerned at the state and loss of many street trees and actively encourage residents to care for them. The Muslim Women's Group working in Mostyn Gardens was invited to meet the Mayor. The very active Friends' Group in the John Innes Park undertook considerable new planting and keep the committee up to date with their activities and plans. Green Flag status was achieved again in 2023.

### Newsletter

We were grateful to our newsletter editor for agreeing to continue for the time being despite having moved away from the area, and it was decided to make the frequency flexible in order to accommodate reports on major events. One of our regular contributors chose to stand down due to so many other commitments, but a successor quickly came forward.

### Heritage

We sadly lost a long-standing member who had contributed to most of our publications but whose extensive archive of local history was generously donated to us and has already proved most useful. We updated our contribution to the Council's Heritage Strategy twice during the year but still await action on the bandstand roof and ancient walls. A long-awaited biography of Henry Goodall Quartermain, John Innes' architect, was written by a member and published by the Society. A revised and enlarged version of our Heritage Walk was prepared. We contributed to two revisions of the London Borough of Merton's Heritage Strategy by identifying areas needing restoration or repair and reporting on successful activities to upgrade green spaces.

### Publicity and Promotion

The website is frequently updated and is crucial for advertising events, enabling payments for membership and publications and as an introduction to the area for new members. Access to it is monitored and reported. Our Coach House window is decorated with artwork to support major events and in particular with a spectacular display for Christmas.

### Other Organisations

We continue to support the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum as a means of communication with the Council's representatives and other Friends' Groups. We are also members of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the London Forum which provides invaluable updates on planning and legislation.

**As ever, our thanks go out to all our willing and long-standing volunteers.**

THE JOHN INNES SOCIETY

Registered Charity 803759

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31 December 2023 (& 2022)

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>				
Members' Subscriptions	3,627		3,807	
Gift Aid tax relief	1,152		1,078	
Interest	1,887		194	
Donations	922		635	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>7,588</b>		5,714
<b>Running costs:</b>				
Annual Meetings	107		175	
Depreciation	88		66	
Rent & Rates	1,457		1,400	
Insurance and bank charges	412		1,768	
Electricity, Maintenance	2,440		524	
Software, Stationery	361		320	
Subscriptions to Outside Bodies	45		45	
Sundries	51	4,961	64	4,362
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) on General Account</b>		<b>2,627</b>		<b>1,352</b>
<b>PROJECTS ACCOUNT</b>				
<b>Fundraising Income:</b>				
Plant Bring & Buy Donations	2,303		3,821	
Bridge	2,075		1,935	
Other Events & Fundraising	1,469		631	
		<b>5,847</b>		6,387
<b>Fundraising Costs:</b>				
Plant Bring & Buy Costs	847		1,555	
Bridge purchases	534		126	
Other Events Costs	771	2,152	334	2,015
<b>Net total fundraising</b>		<b>3,695</b>		4,372
<b>Spending on Society Activities:</b>				
Historical e.g. exhibitions, archives	-		50	
Newsletter incl distribution	582		704	
Environmental e.g. gardens, parks	1,671		4,023	
<b>Total Society Activities</b>		<b>2,253</b>		4,777
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) on Projects Account</b>		<b>1,442</b>		<b>(405)</b>

NOTES:

The Society has progressively accumulated the General Reserves and Projects and Provisions funds over a number of years.

The Society has a full repairing Lease on the Coach House, a Locally Listed building, and also holds reserves in the event of a decision to launch a legal challenge e.g. a Judicial Review.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023 & 2022

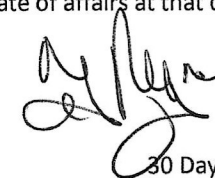
	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Investment Accounts	88,197		79,937	
Balance at Bank	2,654		7,178	
Equipment	351		439	
Stocks at Cost - Books & Merchandise	400		350	
Advance payments & Gift Aid receivable	-		50	
		<b>91,602</b>		87,954
Less accruals and subscriptions in advance		<b>(2,549)</b>		<b>(2,791)</b>
		<b>89,053</b>		<b>85,163</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>GENERAL RESERVES</b>				
Brought forward	16,765		15,413	
General Account Surplus / (Deficit)	2,627		1,352	
		<b>19,392</b>		16,765
<b>PROJECTS AND PROVISIONS</b>				
Brought forward	61,523		61,928	
Projects Account Surplus / (Deficit)	1,442		(405)	
		<b>62,965</b>		61,523
Life Members' Subscriptions	3,310		3,550	
Bequests	3,111		3,050	
Park Fund	275		275	
		<b>6,696</b>		6,875
<b>TOTAL RESERVES:</b>		<b>89,053</b>		<b>85,163</b>

V J Kelly, Hon. Treasurer

Report of the Auditor to the Members of the John Innes Society

I certify that these accounts show a true and fair view of the Society's results for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the state of affairs at that date.

1st February 2024



Hon Auditor Frederick J Rayner  
30 Daybrook Road, Merton Park, SW19