



Friends of
**THE
CONNECTION**
at st martin-in-the-fields

**Chair of Trustees
Recruitment Pack**

2024



THE FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTION

WHO ARE WE?

- The Friends of The Connection is an independent charity dedicated to supporting the work of The Connection at St Martin's which supports homeless and vulnerable people in Central London.
- The Friends is run by volunteers with the support of a part time administrator.. The money we raise goes to The Connection with very little spent on administration.
- Friends are kept informed of the work of The Connection and the activities of the Friends through three newsletters each year, and periodic email news updates and through a developing social media presence.
- Our current membership is about 900 individuals registered as Friends living in the UK and abroad. Of these around 600 are regular donors. Friends pay an annual subscription and most supplement this with donations. On average over the past five years, Friends have contributed around £350,000 every year to the work of The Connection, including legacies.
- Periodically there are special appeals to the Friends for specific requirements, and from time to time the Friends hold fundraising events in central London. Some Friends undertake fundraising events individually. Friends also provide volunteers to The Connection to assist with its fundraising activity.



THE CONNECTION AT ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

The Friends' support The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields

What does The Connection do?

- When your way is hard to find, and there's nowhere left to turn, The Connection is there.
- The Connection opens its door to everyone who needs a place to call home. They support people sleeping rough in the heart of London, helping them to recover and find their way off the streets. They get to know every person we work with, going the extra mile to understand their needs and hopes for the future, and being creative about finding help and solutions.
- As part of St Martin-in-the-Fields, The Connection has been on the front line of homelessness for over one hundred years, right in the heart of Westminster – which has more people sleeping rough than anywhere else in the UK.
- The Connection supports people sleeping rough to find a way off London's streets. They get to know every person they work with, understanding what they need to recover, helping them build on their strengths, and supporting them to find their own way home.



HOW WE ARE ORGANISED

- There is a Friends' committee which oversees the running of the charity. The Connection provides the Friends with office space in its central London location adjacent to St Martin's. Every day running of the office is managed by a part-time Administrator who works closely with the fundraising team of The Connection.
- Committee members, including the Chair, are elected by the Friends' AGM, and are the Trustees of the charity. All committee members are Friends. Formally, the Friends is independent both of The Connection and of the St Martin-in-the Fields Church.
- However, since 2019, there has been an agreement to align the work of The Friends and the Connection Fundraising and Communications Team much closer together. This is achieving some aims, but there is more work to be done to agree how best the two organisations can work together.



ABOUT THE ROLE

- The new Chair will be expected to take the lead in discussions with The Connection in enhancing the role that the Friends can play in raising awareness of the work being undertaken to support people experiencing homelessness in London.
- The Friends wishes to increase the amount of money it raises for The Connection and also to heighten awareness of the work of The Connection
- Discussions are taking place between both charities as to how this can best be achieved. The new Chair will play a key role in those discussions. . A key aspect will be considering how to attract new Friends, especially younger people, either organically or via targeted routes.
- The committee is also considering how Friends can generate income from an increased membership and through fundraising activities undertaken at a local and community level. The Chair will have a significant role to play in ensuring that this can be delivered.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Chair will be expected to:
- lead on discussions with The Connection on how the Friends can actively support The Connection's strategy through increased fundraising activities, direct support where possible, and awareness raising at a local and community level.
- lead the Committee's consideration of innovative ways to increase the membership of the Friends of The Connection, especially younger people, and raise donation income from members.
- consider how the Friends can develop its social media presence in order to attract newer and younger members.
- encourage and support the work of the Friends' Office
- Chair the Friends' Committee and the AGM (Friends' Day)
- oversee and contribute to articles in Friends' news.
- maintain regular contact with the Chair and Chief Executive of The Connection, and as appropriate represent the Friends Committee at The Connection's annual Trustees' Away Day



ATTRIBUTES AND SKILLS REQUIRED

- Excellent communicator.
- Real interest in and commitment to the work of The Connection and how the Friends support this.
- Innovative thinker in relation to what the Friends might achieve.
- Experienced at executive/non-executive level.
- Excellent networking and facilitation skills.
- Enjoy working as part of a team and have respect for colleagues.

DESIRABLE SKILLS

- Fundraising experience.
- General understanding of homelessness in London.
- Awareness of charity governance and regulatory requirements.



TIME REQUIRED

We are looking for a person who has enough time to give leadership to the Friends which on average might amount to 2-3 days a month. Regular commitments are broadly the following, but some flexibility may be required to meet any issues which may arise:

- Chairing meetings of the Friends' Trustees. There are usually 4 or 5 committee meetings during the year; some in person and some remote. Currently, meetings last about 2 hours.
- Regular contact with the CEO of the Connection/ Connection trustees and other key staff as and when required.
- Chairing Friends' Day and the AGM.
- Regular contact with the Charity Administrator and other Trustees.

We welcome applications from candidates with the relevant skills and expertise to undertake the role effectively and who are eligible to act as a charity trustee.

