Annual General Meeting of Ham United Group

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting:	**HUG AGM**	
Date:	**12th November 2025**	
Attendees:	**Attending Directors** Patrick Courtney (Treasurer) Chris Ruse Helen Erhardt Penny Frost (Chair) Sharon Mehta Emma Dowsett Lynsey Elliot	**Attending Members:** Andrew Hawkins (Richmond MakerLabs) Richard Woolf Diane Bridson Geoff Hyde Graham White Jill Boutres Ann Munro Suhail Rebiez Ailish Stewart David Melhile **Green Grafters (GG's) Rep:** Therese Rebeiz

Points:	
1.	**Chair's welcome**
2.	**Talk from representative, Therese Rebeiz, Green Grafters** Presentation on the history of Green Grafters, their involvement with the community and the projects completed on the Ham Estate. Q&A session. PF formally thanked TR for attending and presenting. GW (HRLL) gave thanks on behalf of HRLL for the work that GG's do.

3.	**Approval of previous AGM, 11th November 2024 minutes.** PF explained how the chair role was now working Proposed by PF, seconded by PC. Unanimous approval.
4.	**Annual Financial Accounts and approval for the year ending 30th April 2025.** For the year ended 30th April 2025, the accounts for Ham United Group CIC show: Income in the form of donations £7,360 Expenses £3,227 Surplus for the year £4,133 Retained surplus £12,528 Invitation for questions – Graham White asked about the company structure, who are the members, how the members vote and whether there is a list of members. Geoff Hyde responded by explaining what a Community Interest Company is. CR confirmed there is a list of members and they have a vote at the AGM on matters arising and appointment of Directors. PF explained that there are now monthly Directors meetings. PC proposed approval. Nominated by SM and seconded by CR. Approved unanimously.
5.	**CIC report for the year ending 30th April 2025.** CIC 34 This report is filed with Companies House and outlines the activities of HUG during the year and the positive impact on the local community and those who get involved. We outline how we engage with the community and the role of the directors in running the CIC. Invitation for questions – none raised. Approval nominated by ED and seconded by SM. Approved unanimously.

6.	**Report on our groups and activities during 2025:** **Richmond MakerLabs (RML) - delivered by AH** We're focused on the new building that's currently scheduled for handover next June. There will be a period of transition that currently has some unknowns but we're managing it as best we can. Planning continues around aspects of the design with negotiations around the lease starting with the council. We're currently focussed on identifying and applying for a wide variety of funding, identifying partners to work with such as equipment manufactures We're making more links with other groups in the area that may want to use the space and to share knowledge. In the meantime, we've welcomed many new members this year, lost a few, but are continuing to enjoy our time in Little House. **Friends of Ham Lands (FoHL) - delivered by SM** SM explained the impact climate change was having on Ham Lands, the invasion of non-native species, nature blooming out of season and the complex management now required. SM shared the need for funding for paid staff to manage the bio-diversity, volunteers, Schools activity (Grey Court, Malden Oaks) and explained that Tasha Hunter (RBC) had been supportive of this need. PF gave thanks to SM and her volunteers for the work they do, naming Diane and Paul. **Ham Meditation Group - delivered by PF in DM absence** The Ham Meditation Group has just entered into our 8th year, during which time we have established ourselves and continued to evolve. In 2026, we will be changing the structure to incorporate and encourage specific mindfulness activities to suit each individual participant. In addition to this we will continue to come together in each session to practise group meditation. We are proud to be part of the amazing

community of Ham and welcome you all to attend. We will be meeting on the first Monday of each month (or the Tuesday if a bank holiday).

Grey Court School Allotment - delivered by HE

I am Helen Erhardt, the head volunteer for Grey Court School Allotment. We had a large and enthusiastic group of students attend during the 2024 – 2025 academic year. The main highlight of the year for the group was our first attendance at the HUG Plant Sale in May 2025. The students grew, potted and sold the plants raising £330 which will go towards the purchase of seeds and compost. We will be at the next plant sale in 2026 and have started to raise plants.

I would like to take this opportunity to have recorded the great group of volunteers who have been and are still supporting our sessions, Thank you to Irene, Richard, Anne Marie, Gavin, Lynsey and Kate. Without these volunteers the sessions would not be manageable. I would also like to thank the staff who are supportive and regularly express their thanks to us.

This academic year we again have a large and enthusiastic group of students. This makes our sessions fun and productive and creates satisfaction for our volunteers.

Before I finish, I would like to express my thanks to the Green Grafters who last year helped clear the overgrown trees and vegetation around the allotment and who have more recently cleared and planted the beds around Newman House, home of the special needs school team. Our students are now tasked with the maintenance of these beds. We've also planted nearly 400 daffodil bulbs.

We look forward to the coming year working with the School but most of all with the individual students. See us at the Plant Sale.

Green Grafters (GGs) - delivered by ED

The GGs continue their work with a number of volunteers in around the Ham Community. The highlights for this year are as follows:

GG's had volunteers attending the session as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award
The volunteers are cross generational
The Volunteers learn from each other
GG's help those in the community who are unable to manage their own green spaces
ED attended a course on how important Community Art and Horticulture is.
GG's have created low maintenance borders for school groups
GG's provided a free resource to the community and is proud of its School, Community, and Home connection.

ED received funding from Ham Close Social Fund for an A – Z nature trail around Ham Riverside Lands, 26 tiles thoughtfully placed around the Estate, containing a QR code with information allowing schools, community group, and local residents to learn. The project is due to be delivered by 30th June after the board of HRLL have consulted with their shareholders. ED bought a tile to share and this was past round the group. Those present were very impressed with the quality and design.

ED gave thanks for the amazing teaching talent the group receives from Therese Rebeiz.
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Ham Library Gardens (HLG) - delivered by PC in BN absence

The Ham Library Garden group has continued to meet every third Saturday each month. This year a funding application will be submitted to further improve the library, garden and boundary wall. The application will consist of funding for French doors connecting the library to the garden and garden to the library, an enclosed family friendly space, an outside reading circle, additional benches and maintenance to the trees and boundary wall.

7.	**Update from the Membership Secretary CR:** 192 members of HUG currently on the books, this is up on last year by 3 (189). Members are able to vote on HUG decisions, eg Director appointment etc.
8.	**Update on communications delivered by LE:** LE confirmed during the year there has been more social media followers, greater click through activity, a new Instagram account and regular newsletters and advertising. The coming year will see promotional videos, a new logo and branding, and a promotion for RML around the opening of their new building. PF gave thanks to LE for her work so far around the new logo. RW suggested the new logo should be launched next year to mark 20 years of HUG. This year had seen a number of HUG lead events: Plant Sale, Apple Walks, Volunteer Cream Tea and the Architectural Tour. RW gave thanks to Richmond Golf Club and John Maguire for their support in making the Architectural Tour an interesting and unique event.
9.	**Plans and meetings for 2026** Blossom Walk – Spring 2026 HUG Plant sale – May 2026 Stalls at Ham Fair – June 2026 20 Years of HUG – Summer 2026 (exact details to be confirmed) HUG Arts and Crafts Fair – Autumn 2026 Apple Walk Summer 2026 Architectural Tour Water pumping station at Lock Road (TBC) Summer 2026

11	**Election of Officers and Directors** Director at the end of his 3-year term: Chris Ruse CR has chosen to stand again. Nominated by PF, seconded by HE.
12	**AOB** 1) PF explained that Roger Metcalf from the Safer Neighbourhood Board had attended the AGM earlier and reported that the Chair of Ham and Petersham Safer Neighbourhood board has been ill and the meetings have been cancelled. GW explained the importance of a functioning police liaison group within our community. The group needs to be reactivated and can either stand on its own, with a new Chair or within a group. PF closed the meeting, thanked all for attending. ED thanked PF for chairing the meeting
Appendix	
1	HUG Annual Accounts
2	CIC Report