

FRIENDS OF YEADING WALK NEWSLETTER, Sept/Oct. 2021



The leaves are turning autumnal and beginning to fall. Look out for the crimson Virginia Creeper trailing from park boundary trees on the right when approaching Northumberland Road. The Orchard trees are now ship-shape for winter and the Orchard floor has been full of apples.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Planting the Orchard Bed is underway with grasses, evergreen pittosporum and hebes, salvias, lavender, sedum, penstemon, rosemary and other sustainable, pollinator-friendly plants. This bed was funded by the Community Lottery fund following a successful bid by the Friends in May. The trellises will have climbing plants which will grow and spread along the wall over time. Some of the plants are still very young and will take time to mature – but the essence of gardening is patience - so we hope you will enjoy watching the plants grow. We are in need of a long hose(s) (without leaks!). If anyone has one to spare to donate, do let us know (FoYWgroup@gmail.com).

Young Peoples' Art Competition with 'Messages to COP26'. There will be an 'All Ages' art competition on Saturday 6th November for our young people to voice their messages about Climate Change in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Meeting in Glasgow in November. All young people are invited to illustrate their messages about Climate Change and Our Planet on the park walkways in chalk, with drawings to be photographed and displayed on social media. Meet at the central wooden bridge at 2 pm. Bring chalk (and the Friends will also supply), your ideas and your friends. You don't need to be an accomplished artist but this is too important to miss!

Bird Watching Walk on 29th October: Led by Pinner RSPB, There will be a gentle stroll in the park to identify birds and their calls, led by Pinner RSPB, as Yeading Walk support for London Rivers Week. The complimentary walk begins at the Northumberland Road entrance at 11 am, for about 45 mins.

Work on the Nature Walk on the far side of the stream will resume once the nettles die back and access becomes easier. The long term plan is to reclaim the former path which existed on the far side of the stream. The Nature Walk will provide a peaceful place: to stroll, enjoy nature and photograph the park in all its moods. A regular Nature Walk activity group is under development and we intend to protect the wildness of the park while addressing areas of neglect.

The Friends need to source cutting tools for the work and will be posting notices in the park and on social media about upcoming Project Saturdays when you are invited to come along and join us for a social morning, make friends and care for the park.

SURVEY ATTACHED: We very much value your views on the park. Please complete our survey on page 4 of this newsletter. This information will also help with a funding bid. Returns to FoYWGroup@gmail.com Please mark your returns SURVEY in the subject line of your email.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY 23 Oct, in the park, 11 am – 12 pm

As per the constitution, the current Friends Committee will stand down but is eligible for re-election. We very much welcome new applicants to help with activities/events, social media publicity, web page design, develop the nature walk and fund raising. Feel free to contact the Friends for more information. Please advise your intention to stand by emailing FoYWgroup@gmail.com, and mark the email COMMITTEE ELECTION. **All applications should be received one week prior to the AGM. All recipients of the Friends' Newsletter are eligible to vote on the election of the new committee at the AGM.** There will be a brief update on plans for the park, finances and opportunity to meet other park visitors, give your views about your park, the role of the Friends Group and any concerns. We look forward to seeing you all on 23rd Oct.

PARK UPDATES

Clean-the-Stream: This was a huge success with around 25 volunteers participating and a massive amount of junk fished out of the river. THANK YOU to everyone who took part. The stream is noticeably cleaner which will help improve water quality. Councillor Janet Mote came to support the effort and MP Gareth Thomas took time-out from the day job to get into the stream.

Outfall Pipe: With support from the Crane Valley River Authority, the Friends requested Thames Water investigate the foul discharge from the outfall pipe next to the main wooden bridge. They reported a 'fatberg' of wet wipes and grease had completely blocked the foul line, so it was overflowing into the surface water line. The blockage has now been cleared and the pollution tankered out of the line. The Friends will continue to monitor the pipe and others in the stream.

Japanese Knotweed

Harrow Parks has been formally requested to spray the invasive Japanese Knotweed growing along the river bank near the bamboo. The Council was planning to engage a contractor and the Knotweed appears to have been treated. Harrow Council has been asked to confirm this as the spraying will very likely need to be repeated next year. There is regrettably no progress with Harrow Parks on the removal of invasive Mares Tail from the bed opposite the stone bridge. Covering the weed has not destroyed it because of the extensive underground rhizome root system.

Big Green Week – looking after the trees

Nearly 30 young native saplings were 'adopted' by families and park visitors at the Big Green Week event. These included Silver Birch, Hazels, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and an Oak tree. The trees will be nurtured at home for a year and returned to the park for planting on the far side of the stream next autumn. ***We still have a few saplings looking for homes, if interested.*** While the youngsters were potting up their trees, parents put in some heavy work mulching the Orchard trees with leaf mould made from leaves swept up last autumn and then topped up by wood chips to feed the trees, retain moisture and suppress the weeds. A big 'THANK YOU' to all those who took part.

Litter picking: Every Monday at 4 pm but moving to 2 pm once the clocks change in October. Meet at the main bridge and please bring your gloves. Litter picks will be supplied.

IN THE PARK

Cornelian Cherry Tree (Cornus Mas)

Visitors have enjoyed the sight of abundant tiny clusters of bright yellow flowers in late winter, followed later by a heavy crop of glossy red berries, carried by the tree at the Northumberland entrance. This is a Cornelian Cherry, a member of the dogwood family and is native to eastern Europe and parts of Asia. The fruit is rich in vitamin C and edible with a taste like cranberry or sour cherry. Although rather tart, it makes lovely jams and cordials (or liquers if you are a home-brewer). Watch for good autumn leaf colour as the days become colder.



We welcome volunteers to help us with projects and ongoing activities in the park. We continue to raise funds to support the park. Your contributions, suggestions and comments are welcome and greatly appreciated.

BANK: NatWest

ACCOUNT NAME: Friends of Yeading Walk

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 21131511

SORT CODE: 52-10-33

If donating by electronic transfer of funds, please use your name or that of your organisation as a reference. We would be grateful if you can send us an email after becoming a Friend using email address foywgroup@gmail.com with 'SECRETARY – Payment' in the subject line. This allows us to thank you for becoming a Friend and to keep you updated with all the latest news.

Sincerely,

Committee, Friends of Yeading Walk.

(PS please don't forget the survey). Once the form is completed, kindly mark your return SURVEY in the email subject bar and return to foywgroup@gmail.com. Thanks for sharing your views.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEADING WALK PARK USERS, 2021 –

Please check relevant box with an X and comment where indicated. This survey will be sent to all newsletter recipients and visitors will also be surveyed in the park.

How frequently do you use the park?	Daily	Most weeks	Monthly	Other (specify)		
Why do you come to the park?	Local Walk	Meet friends	Bike/Walk through route	Other (specify)		
What is important to you when visiting?	Cleanliness	Safety	Good Path	Wild life /Natural environment	Other (specify)	
What improvements would you like to see in the park?	More Benches	More litter bins	Adult Gym	Children's Playground	Planting	Other
Have you heard of the Friends of Yeading Walk?	Yes	No	Not sure	How did you hear about the group?		
Are you a member? i.e. do you receive the newsletter?	Yes	No	Like to receive	Name/Email/ Tel No		
What actions have the Friends taken that you like?	Litter Picking	Newsletter	Planting	Clean-the-Stream	Picnic Benches	Other
What else should the FoYW do in the park?	More bins	Improve Safety	More Planting	Activities	Other	
Do you disagree with any FoYW activities?	Comment					
What actions should FoYW take to combat Climate Change?	Litter Picking	Planting flowers	Planting Trees	Stop Path Flooding	Improve biodiversity	Other

Which of your choices above is MOST important?				
If chose Trees, where and what should be planted?	General comment fine – do not have to specify species			
Would you be willing to fund planting Trees?	Yes	No	Possibly	Comment
Would you be interested in volunteering in the park?	Yes	No	Possibly	Possible days /times
Would you be interested in joining the committee?	Yes	No	Maybe	Areas of interest
Other Comments				

Email address: (Optional)

Respondent's Name: (Optional)

Male / Female

Approx Age range (Young person, midlife/working, retired)

Please email back to foywgroup@gmail.com, with SURVEY in the subject line. Feel free to delete the newsletter and just send the survey pages back.