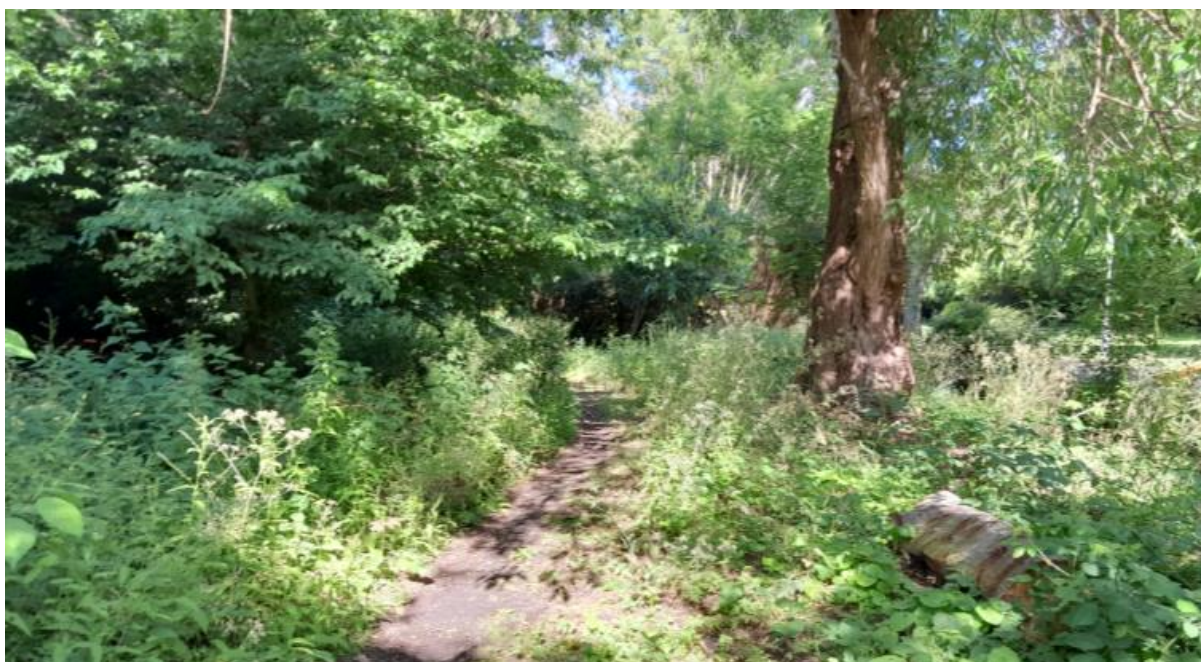


FRIENDS OF YEADING WALK NEWSLETTER, June 2022



Spring brought the opening of the Nature Walk, with riverside paths on two sections on either side of the main wooden bridge cleared of bramble and nettles. While this area remains a key habitat for wildlife, effective access to this side of the river was lost for 30 years. We hope that you will explore this reclaimed path now available for walkers, bird-watchers, young explorers, grandparents with children in buggies, and all who enjoy nature. We recommend you kindly keep to the path, close to the stream, as we share this space with park wildlife - birds, foxes, the occasional Munjak deer, squirrels, all the flora and fauna, bugs and beasties - and would wish to respect their home. Our long term plan is to create a permanent, permeable, all-weather path. Once we have funding, indigenous woodland plants such as snowdrops, primroses, wood anemones, dog violets etc. could be planted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'Clean the Stream' is coming up in July, probably on Sat 9th or 16th, weather depending. Look out your wellies and your gloves and watch the notice boards for the date to clean and restore the stream. Yeading Brook is part of the Crane River Valley corridor and ultimately flows into the Thames. Improving water quality is critical for healthy and diverse stream life and a key aspect of our responsibility as custodians of the river.

This is a fun day, don't miss it!

Photo: Clean-the-Stream 2021



'Project Saturdays' continue most Saturday mornings

Volunteers of all ages meet from 10 am near the wooden bridge to tackle projects in the park and enjoy each others' company. Do join us whenever you can spare a Saturday morning.

Park Bench Spring Clean

The park benches are in sore need of a good clean. Does anyone have a battery-powered sander which they would be willing to loan volunteers for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, or better still, come and help with the project?

PARK UPDATES

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Congratulations and warm good wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

While fully anticipating that the flag might get nicked from the Rainbow Garden, we did not anticipate Her Majesty to be highjacked. So when the her photo disappeared on Sunday, the only option was to immediately summon the Household Cavalry to investigate.

Last Saturday the Friends set up an informal stall offering cakes to all and plants for sale and raised £53.00 for the park. Thank you for all who supported us.

The park lost nine trees near the Rayners Lane entrance, as a result of Storm Eunice and high winds just before Easter. A couple of trees were weakened by age and fungus viz. the willow on the 'Shady Walk' and elm on the stream bank, and others succumbed to the high winds. It was a tough time for the park with the loss of so many mature trees and paths blocked for some weeks. Contractors helped place the fallen trunks in various places around the park, providing seating and places for children to climb on. The Shady Walk is looking very bare where several trees came down and Friends hope to raise funds to replace these.



Site of the fallen trees on the 'Shady Walk'

There is some upside in that there is increased day light on the stream which will improve water quality and the Shady Walk is more visible for walkers. A huge **'Thank You'** to all the volunteers who cleared the path of fallen branches and debris from stream.

St Alban's Fete on 21st May enabled the Friends to raise around £120 for the park by selling cuttings and donated plants. Thanks to St. Alban's for inviting us to participate and to all who provided plants and came to support us at the fete. Good luck with your planting!



Friends of Yeading Walk talk with the Mayor and his wife at St Alban's Fete

Two new notice boards, supplied by Harrow Council, have been installed in the park, at the main crossroads bridge and at the Rayners Lane entrance. We should like to warmly thank Sally Reeves, Principal Landscape Architect, for organising and supplying these for Yeading Walk. Do let us know via our email, or in the park, what you would like to see posted on the Notice Boards.

There was a major pollution incident involving foul discharge from the outfall pipes under Northumberland Road. This was reported to Thames Water and the Environment Agency and revealed a blockage in the foul sewer which overflowed into the stream. This has now been cleared and Thames Water report that the line has been sandbagged to prevent further discharge into the watercourse. Thames Water are also further investigating the unpleasant discharge from the outfall pipe close to the main wooden bridge. Please continue to report your concerns via FoYW email.

Plans for a Revetment and Streamside Planting have been moved to later in the year. The Friends have permission from the Environment Agency to support and repair the bank close to the main wooden bridge and once this project is complete, the Streamside Bed will be planted. The bed will be covered with wood chip while plans are considered by the Council.

We welcome volunteers to help us with projects and ongoing activities in the park. We continue to raise funds to support and improve the park, and for specific projects. 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.

Email: FoYWGroup@gmail.com

Friends Regular Activities:

'Project Saturdays': Volunteers meet at 10 am to tackle various projects in the park, working until around 12.30 pm, or how

Litter Picking – Every Monday afternoon, 4 pm in BST and 2 pm in Winter

Gardening – Tuesdays, from 10 am for a couple of hours.

Queries/Comments to FoYWGroup@gmail.com