



FRIENDS OF YEADING WALK

Annual Report 2023/2024

Chair's Report

It has been an extremely busy and productive year in Yeading Walk. My warm thanks and appreciation for the excellent support and hard work of the committee and the active contribution of all our fantastic volunteers.

Autumn 2023 saw an active planting programme following a Harrow Council 'Green Grid' award for Yeading Walk. FoYW volunteers, aided by corporate supporters, planted daffodils at the Lincoln Road entrance and snowdrops and other woodland plants along the Nature Walk. March saw the beginning of the Council-led 'Yeading Brook Unbound' programme to cut back streamside vegetation – especially invasive cherry laurel and bamboo – along the left bank to allow more sunlight to reach the water, improving the eco-system for stream life.



Streamside was finally planted in spring 2024 following contractor repair and support work for the left stream bank in 2023. Planting is a mix of evergreens, tough drought-tolerant plants and wild flowers to compliment the summer aquatic planting of yellow flag irises and purple loosestrife along the sunny section of the river bank. The Bee & Bat Patch along the Shady Walk, Lavender Walk from the Suffolk Road entrance, new entrance beds at Lincoln Road and Rayners Lane and the Rainbow Garden are all thriving. Plants have been chosen to provide nectar for bees and butterflies, moths for bats, provide habitat and brighten the park for the enjoyment of all our visitors.

Jacob, our Warden is transforming the Nature Walk with log piles for insects to breed and hibernate, erected bird boxes and built a dead-hedge enclosure for habitat, a quiet spot to sit and for children to play. Trees planted in the Shady Walk and near Rayners Lane, plus the 'Adopt-a-Tree' silver birches near Northumberland Road and the hawthorns planted along the sports field are growing well.

We have a flexible team and have dealt with vandalism, medical emergencies, graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Guided by Project Manager, Eddie, the Friends have continued to upgrade park infrastructure by replacing the picnic bench, earlier destroyed by vandals. We report pollution incidents to Thames Water, and safety and tree health issues to the Council. Marianne and Sue have kept the park litter free for four years – a never-ending task! We have enjoyed strong support from Harrow Council, with provision of a new bridge, bank support works, hugely popular stepping stones across the stream and a secure tool storage facility, enabling our team to work far more effectively.



We had a successful booth at St Alban's Fair, raising funds for the park, an event for young 'Eco-Warriors' focusing on plastic reduction and a log-rolling session with the Scouts. The Bat Walk will be repeated this autumn. Look out your recipes for apple and blackberry crumble as Orchard Day approaches and we invite families to help pick the fruit in the Community Orchard in late summer. Media/Communications Manager, Hilary, has filled our website and notice boards with interesting articles about nature and park activities.



FoYW is entering its fifth year. We have come a long way, learning from both our successes and mistakes and gained a deeper appreciation of our wildlife, our wild spaces and the need for an increased focus on conservation and climate mitigation measures. We welcome the survey feedback from the park community and will continue to seek guidance from those with real expertise and experience. There will always be differences of opinion about the path forward, but we work best when willing to debate constructively and with good will.

Membership and Volunteering

We really need your help to maintain and preserve this special park, even a couple of hours now and then would make such a difference. Volunteering is great for the park and good for all of us, body and soul – so come and join us! Send an email to foywgroup@gmail.com for volunteering details. This is our local park; it is special and deserves our respect and our commitment.



Mary Wayne, Chair, Friends of Yeading Walk

Park User Survey

In spring of 2024 we conducted a survey of Yeading Walk users by emailing the membership and direct surveying other park users. We received a good response to the survey questionnaire from 65 people. Since Covid the use of the park has increased significantly and user views are important feedback for us volunteers, Harrow Council and other external interest groups. As the table below of awareness of Friends' activities shows, people notice our work on flowerbeds but are less aware of some of the other activities, like tree planting to replace trees lost in storms and liaison with external parties that are so important for the wellbeing of the park, wildlife and its users.

1	Weekly litter picking		45
2	Planting and maintenance of flower beds		63
3	Tree planting including Adopt-a-Tree programme		36
4	Maintenance of the Community Orchard		41
5	Stream clean including clearance of objects thrown in by vandals		54
6	Liaison with Harrow Council, Police, Thames Water and other services regarding incidents in the park		31
7	Involvement of local Scout groups, schools, Duke of Edinburgh, etc.		17
8	Not aware of activities by Friends of Yeading Walk		3

Treasurer's Report

Whilst our volunteers have provided nearly 2000 hours of free labour over 12 months, we need to raise funds for purchases of tools and for projects. We do not require members to pay a fixed annual membership fee and rely instead on voluntary contributions from people pleased with our efforts. The table below is our financial statement for the year. Some of the closing balance is allocated to ongoing projects.

OPENING BALANCE 1 APRIL 2023 £ 6,158

INCOME £

Donations	642	<i>Donations from members and visitors</i>
Grants	500	<i>Grant from Local Giving – picnic table</i>
Harrow Wins	257	<i>Harrow Wins contributions to FoYW</i>
Fete	215	<i>Sale of plants and books</i>
Interest	29	<i>Saving account interest</i>

SUBTOTAL 1,643

EXPENDITURE £

Materials	201	<i>Miscellaneous small tools and materials</i>
Picnic table	848	<i>Funded by grant and by FoYW</i>
Streamside bed at the wooden bridge	235	<i>Soil and shrubs</i>
GLA grant - remaining purchases	245	<i>Water pump & hose fittings</i>
Various beds - maintenance	163	<i>Repair/replacement plants</i>
CV grant - remaining purchases	306	<i>Additional soil and plants</i>
Web Services	45	<i>FoYW website hosting</i>
Lincoln Road entrance bed	78	<i>Plants and soil</i>

SUBTOTAL 2,122

CLOSING BALANCE 31 MARCH 2024 £ 5,679

Jiri Fuchs, Treasurer, Friends of Yeading Walk

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