



Friends of Yeading Walk Newsletter



Autumn 2025



Welcome New Volunteers

This year, alongside many Friends of Harrow parks groups, we focused on attracting new volunteers to support the maintenance and development of Yeading Walk. To ensure our community's green space continues to thrive, we launched a dedicated campaign to publicise volunteer opportunities. If you have visited Yeading Walk recently, you have likely noticed our posters and banners, encouraging local residents to get involved.

Our appeal has reached new audiences, and we have had the pleasure of welcoming several enthusiastic new volunteers who have already begun making a valuable contribution to our projects. The fresh energy and enthusiasm brought by these volunteers is helping to strengthen our community's connection to Yeading Walk and safeguard its future. We'd love to have you join us for morning 'Project Saturdays' and during the week for gardening.

We are grateful to the Crane Valley Partnership (CVP), who kindly funded the publicity campaign and also materials for our current project: the construction of a raised flowerbed at the Suffolk Road entrance. This partnership exemplifies the collaborative spirit that makes local projects possible.

Watch this space!

The ground at the Suffolk Road entrance has long presented challenges due to its poor quality and the existence of an old concrete road surface beneath a thin layer of grass, making it difficult for plants to survive. No problem for Harrow's Green team who helpfully brought a tractor to remove the grass, saving volunteers many hours of heavy work.





FoYW's project team then designed and built a raised bed using heavy duty metal edging for a sustainable result. Fresh, fertile soil was delivered, and the outcome will be a new, vibrant flowerbed for visitors to enjoy and supporting a range of insect pollinators.



Planting in October will include specimen plants such as Escallonia (loved by the bees), mock orange (for fragrance), and evergreen 'Crimson & Gold' quince. Winter-flowering erica will edge the bed, with coryopteris, persicaria, helenium, geums, euphorbia etc. providing a riot of colour. This project enhances the visual appeal of the entrance and supports wildlife but also demonstrates the positive impact that community initiative and teamwork can have on our shared green spaces.

We warmly thank to all who have contributed—our Infrastructure Projects Team, funding from our funding partners, CVP, and Harrow Council's Green Grid award for the plants. If you are interested in joining our efforts or learning more about upcoming activities, please look out for further notices in Yeadon Walk or contact us directly. Together, we can continue to make Yeadon Walk a welcoming and beautiful place for everyone.

Scouts in the Stream and Cubs in the Dead Hedges

We welcomed a special species of young wildlife from the 4th Headstone Scouts for the 'Clean-the-Stream' event in summer and the younger cubs for a dead-hedge building session. Thanks to their energy and enthusiasm the river is cleaner and there is excellent dead hedge habitat for bugs, beetles, small mammals near the stepping stones which access the Nature Walk.

Thank you to 4th Headstone and leaders for volunteering and conservation work well done!



Wardens Notebook



Our resident egret was spotted cooling off in the stream recently. This beautiful photo was taken by committee member, Marianne.

It all began as a provoking menage a trois with two drakes and one female duck consorting in Yeading Brook. The happy outcome is a fine family of eight ducklings spotted in the stream near the Northumberland Bridge in the summer. Having produced two chicks, the moorhens can be regularly seen in and out of the purple loosestrife and yellow flag irises at the river edge.



No residents to report in the park bird boxes this year but we have hopes for fledglings in the spring.

We have two 'No Mow' grass areas where we have allowed the grass to grow uncut. This is to allow for wildlife to thrive. These then will become food for bats and birds. The intention is to harvest about a third of the growth soon and then sow some yellow rattle seed. Doing a third leaves habitat for insects to over winter but also allows us to introduce alternative to grasses. There are many non-grass plants in place already but are rather swamped by the grasses. Yellow rattle suppresses grass in a parasitic manner which allows other plants, currently swamped by existing grass, to thrive. These areas are also kept clear of bramble and dock, which would take over if not managed.

FOYW took part in the Great Butterfly Count in August, recording butterflies along the Orchard's Lavender Walk and in the Bat & Bee Patch near Rayners Lane. Disappointingly, while these flower beds were buzzing with bees and butterflies a couple of weeks earlier, numbers were low on the day of the count with predominantly small white and gatekeeper species seen. We continue to choose plants which attract a variety of pollinators to the park.



The new trees planted last autumn are holding up, despite the heat and lack of rain. Watering all the young trees has been challenging with low water levels in the stream creating problems with the pump. They have had a slow-release water bag attached to their stakes and 50L of water is required to fill each bag. A big Thank You to volunteers who carried water in the heat from the stream for the chestnut and purple-leaf beech along the Suffolk Road boundary, ornamental pears and alders. Watering is required for the first two years to allow the trees to establish so another year of attention is needed.

Of the seven trees planted, the lime has had a setback. It was planted in what turns out to be a very wet patch which is still wet as we enter this very dry period. We moved it and are hoping it will recover next spring. Three new crab apples in the Orchard have been trimmed and are doing well and bearing fruit for the birds. The sweet chestnut, the beech and ornamental pear; a memorial tree, are all doing well.



Two silver birches near Rayners Lane have died and been cut down. Unfortunately, the remaining silver birches in this area are also experiencing die-back at the crowns and are likely to decline further, possibly reflecting lack of water in recent hot summers. Replacing the park's aging and damaged tree stock is a key strategy for the FoYW.

And finally,

*A new bin, to replace the one driven over by contractors in the park, three years ago!
Thank you Harrow Council, it's being put to good use.*





Upcoming Activities

Orchard Day, Saturday afternoon, 6th October

This is always fun, and you are all invited to pick a range of dessert and cooking apples from the Community Orchard. Bring the family and meet in the Orchard from 3 pm on Saturday 6th October. Don't forget to bring a bag for your fruit. Help us pick up the spoiled fruit on the ground to discourage codling moth attacking the apples next year. These are deposited in the Nature Walk wild area as food for birds and insects. We love to see photos of your subsequent delicious apple crumbles and deserts on our Facebook page.

Annual General Meeting Sunday 12th October at 2.30 pm

This will be held in the meeting room in the North Harrow Library. Further details will be emailed to all Friends in September with information on committee positions to be filled. If you would like information about our committee roles, please email foywgroup@gmail.com

Other ways you can support your park

Be a Winner with 'Harrow Wins'

This is a local Harrow lottery to benefit good causes in Harrow. Tickets cost only £1, of which 60p goes to your nominated beneficiary, which we hope will be Yeading Walk. Local lottery odds are so much more favourable than the National Lottery, and we have had some Yeading Walk winners, so support your park, PLAY TODAY and GOOD LUCK! See details at <https://www.harrowwins.co.uk>

We welcome families and volunteers to help us with projects and ongoing activities at Yeading Walk. We continue to raise funds to support and improve the park, and for specific projects. Just an occasional hour of your time makes a huge difference. Why not join our friendly group of volunteers for Project Saturday a.m., or other advertised times in the park?

Your contributions, suggestions and comments are welcome and greatly appreciated. Visit our website at <https://friendsofyeadingwalk.co.uk> or join our active volunteer WhatsApp group by sending us a request with your mobile number via email. Email: foywgroup@gmail.com

We encourage everyone who loves Yeading Walk to support the park. As a Friend of Yeading Walk, **your annual donation of £5 /year works out to 1.4p/day - a bargain in anyone's books.** Please enable the Friends to care for your park by making your annual voluntary donation today.

BANK: National Westminster
ACCOUNT NAME: Friends of Yeading Walk
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 21131511
SORT CODE: 52-10-33

If donating by electronic transfer of funds, please give your name or that of your organisation as a reference. Do send us an email when you donate, using email address foywgroup@gmail.com with 'TREASURER – Payment' in the subject line, so that we can thank you for becoming a Friend and keep you updated with all the latest news.

Sincerely,
Committee, Friends of Yeading Walk