



FRIENDS OF YEADING WALK

Annual Report 2024/2025

Chair's Report 2024 – Oct 2025

This is the sixth year since the formation of the Friends of Yeading Walk in September 2020. I am encouraged by the support from our community and the hard work and dedication of the committee and all our volunteers. A huge 'Thank you' to all.

Corporate Volunteering

Last November, Yeading Walk hosted a second visit from Siemens Financial Services. Their corporate volunteering team spent a morning planting ferns and spring bulbs in various locations along the stream. We appreciate their time and interest in the park and their commitment to improving the environment. FoYW welcome offers of corporate volunteering from local businesses - it's fun, helps build a collegiate workplace team and supports the park environment. Please talk to the committee if you would like to know more.



Park Improvements

Last autumn also saw the creation of the Woodland Bank either side of the fallen log on the path to Northumberland Road. This largely barren area was planted with native ferns and spring bulbs and plants to provide a habitat for insects, with green planting enhancing the riverbank. We discovered that squirrels love fritillaries, dug up the bulbs ate most of them, so perhaps we shall be safer with primroses in future. The ferns struggled a bit in the hot weather, but a wet winter will help recovery.



Summer brought challenging weather conditions with four heat waves over 30 degrees. We try to minimize our water use even when prolonged heat waves create stressful conditions for planted areas and challenges for watering young trees from the stream. However, I was encouraged to see that the planting and young trees held up, despite the heat. Unfortunately, several mature silver birches located near the path to Rayners Lane have died and crack willows along the stream have suffered large broken branches. We can expect challenging weather conditions to continue with wetter winters and hotter summers and our programme for the park will need to adjust to meet these conditions.

Community Engagement

This year the committee embarked on a drive to enlarge our volunteering pool. Funding from the Crane Valley Partnership enabled Hilary to design and order banners for park entrances, together with a variety of posters illustrating volunteering. This has met with some success: the Project Saturday volunteers now comprise a 'League of Nations' team including men and women from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities, bringing their enthusiasm (and importantly - their strong muscles!) However, we can always do with more help, there are jobs for everyone, so don't be shy.



Volunteering offers an enjoyable couple of hours in the fresh air, good company and conversation and an opportunity to help shape this lovely space. It's cheaper than therapy and you lose weight! We'll be sweeping leaves to make compost in November – do join us.

Early summer brought St Alban's Fair, which always a treat, a chance to see local friends and opportunity to raise funding with home-grown, park cuttings and many donated plants. We raised £122 which helps buy tools, equipment, printing etc.

We continue to enjoy our relationship with the 4th Headstone Scouts who enthusiastically cleaned the stream in the summer (some getting very wet, with much squealing in the process) and the cubs who help build the dead-hedge near the stepping stones. Thank you to leaders, parents who came to help and to all the young participants. We love having you in the park!



What's Next?

Our current project includes the creation of a raised bed at the Suffolk Road entrance. The Projects Team (Eddie and Jiri) designed and built a raised bed which will provide a sustainable, galvanized steel structure for planting. Funding came from a successful bid from the Crane Valley Partnership, and the plants are being funded by Harrow Council's Green Grid award. A Big 'Thank You' to our repeat sponsors who have enabled us to tackle these projects.



We expect to be planting in mid-October, with a mix of tough plants able to withstand full sun, provide a riot of colour and welcome pollinators and visitors to the park. Plants will include achillea, coreopsis, euphorbia, salvia, helenium's, grasses and many others, with erica for winter blooms.

We are also preparing the Island Bed, near the stone bridge enroute to Rayners Lane. Clearing the bed, erecting the edging and adding soil will probably take place in autumn with planting likely following in spring. Plants will include mahonia, geranium, Japanese anemones and others suitable for the shady location. We shall be looking at replacing the silver birches in this challenging location, which has very water-logged conditions during winter.

Our conservation efforts continue but I shall leave Jacob, our Warden, to answer any questions in the Ordinary General Meeting immediately after the AGM. I shall also update you on Harrow Council's 'Yeading Brook Unbound' Project in the OGM.

Mary Wayne, Chair, Friends of Yeading Walk

Treasurer's Report

1. Hours and Value

Volunteer efforts over the 5 years of the FOYW existence has consistently been steady with bulk of the hours provided by members of the committee. When the effort is expressed in value terms this represents over £68k which is a significant contribution to the well-being of the park. Harrow Council's and Thames Water's investment and maintenance in Yeading Walk is additional to this amount.

Hours	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Committee volunteers	279	1,047	1,070	1,115	1,066	4,577
Other volunteers	69	309	622	656	572	2,228
Total	348	1,356	1,692	1,771	1,638	6,805

Value delivered – calculated as hours times London Living Wage

Total Value	£	3,035	12,082	16,074	18,454	18,739	68,383
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2. Membership fees

We continue to not require members to pay a fixed annual membership fee and rely instead on voluntary contributions from people pleased with our efforts.

3. Accounts

The table below is our financial statement for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

OPENING BALANCE 1 APRIL 2024	£	5,679	
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INCOME £

Donations	431	<i>Donations from members and visitors</i>
UKSPF grant	2,337	<i>Trees</i>
CVP grants	2,628	<i>Tools and Marketing</i>
Harrow Wins	214	<i>Harrow Wins contributions</i>
Fete	122	<i>Sale of plants and books</i>
Interest	102	<i>Saving account interest</i>

SUBTOTAL 5,834

EXPENDITURE £

Materials	511	<i>Miscellaneous small tools and materials</i>
Streamside bed at the wooden bridge	219	<i>Replacement soil and shrubs</i>
Trees	1,539	<i>Various trees planted</i>
Tools	1,583	<i>Battery tools, carts, etc.</i>
Marketing	473	<i>Banners, leaflets, etc.</i>
Room hire	50	<i>AGM and Special GM</i>
Web Services	30	<i>Website hosting</i>
Lincoln Road entrance bed	17	<i>Plants and soil</i>

SUBTOTAL 4,422

CLOSING BALANCE 31 MARCH 2025	£	7,091	
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Jiri Fuchs, Treasurer, Friends of Yeading Walk