

HATCH END

RIVERSIDE PARK NEWSLETTER 5



Where is it?	Behind Morrisons.
What is it?	The new Hatch End park.
What's the latest:	Working parties planned to clear undergrowth from the banks of the Pinn: 9 August and 6 September

There has been delay in starting construction, as the Council have found it hard to get contractors to commit to install the path and platforms at acceptable cost. We have organised a working party in conjunction with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Biodiversity Officer of Harrow to start work on tidying the site on **9 August and 6 September from 10:30 to 15:00**. If you would like to participate, please contact heacoms@aol.com.



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The Working Parties

We have arranged to support The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) of Harrow with some additional local resources to start to clear the undergrowth along the banks of the River Pinn. The conservation volunteers supporting Steve Whitbread, the Harrow Biodiversity Officer, have planned two **Wednesdays** on **8 August and 6 September** to start work on the edges of the new Park. They have a van and tools and plan to work from **10:30 to 15:00** removing briars and branches along the banks of the river to open up the area.

We would really welcome volunteers who can join us for these days.

Please confirm if you can attend to help kick off the work this summer so we can plan the resources available. Do remember that it is relatively heavy work cutting out the brambles and briars and pruning back the lower branches of overgrown trees.

If you can join us, please plan to wear working clothes with a jacket that can protect against thorns and bring gardening/working gloves and basic tools (secateurs etc.) if you have them.

Giant Hogweed

Unfortunately, Giant Hogweed was found growing on the banks of the River Pinn; we thought this had been eradicated in previous years. Sap from the plant on exposed skin can cause severe skin rash/burns when exposed to sunlight and it is considered a danger, especially to children.

John Cobb (07879 434960) and Graham Buckland (07775 552864) (*pictured in front of a giant hogweed stem*) worked with Steve Whitbread on 26 June to remove the giant hogweed and bag the seedheads in bin-liners to stop further spread. The site is now ready for further work.



Progress on the Park

It has been difficult for the Council to find Contractors to carry out the works cost-effectively for the new path and platforms. The quotes came in above budget and the Council is currently re-tendering. This has unfortunately delayed work starting in August.

We had planned to formally launch the “Friends” group to support the Park going forward, once tenders had been accepted and work on the footpath was committed to start. Given the delays, we will proceed with volunteering to get a “Friends” group started so we can make progress during the remaining summer months.

Please join us if you can on a working group and let us know by email or phone if you could attend one or both of these working parties.