

“FRIENDS OF THE RIVERSIDE PARK”

NEWSLETTER 10

In June we gained Green Flag accreditation for the park and the Council provided a flag pole on which to fly the “green flag”. We understand the park achieved the top rating for Harrow Green Flag parks which shows the importance and impact of having a “friends” group to maintain and enhance the park.

There have been “Friends” working parties every month over the summer to maintain and enhance the park. We have cut back the regrowth of briars and saplings along the banks of the River Pinn. Last year we planted 600 daffodils that made a reasonable display; this year we have planted a further 1600 crocus, 600 daffodils and lined 100m of the riverbank with bluebells. We hope for a greatly enhanced display next spring.

The wildflower meadow is developing well and we had a wonderful display by the end of June. In September the meadow was cropped by



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scythe and left to dry for two weeks so that this years seeds could drop, to extend the meadow next year. The area was then raked and cleared in October.

The “friends” have also gained a small grant of £1000 which we will use to purchase 20 fruit trees for a new orchard to be planted overwinter. These will include Nolan Pippin, Newton Wonder, Allington Pippin apples, Conference pears and President plums. These will be delivered as



dry root saplings and a working party will plant them in the area between the Greenhill building and the road access to the swimming pool. We are also considering the creation of a mural on the southern wall of the swimming pool to discourage further graffiti.

We are delighted that the “friends” have gained full HMRC approval and is now registered as a small charity. That allows us to claim tax back on charitable donations up to £8000. Community donations would be very welcome.

If you wish to join the “Friends”, donate or receive our newsletter via email, please contact our chairman Graham Buckland, at:

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