

“FRIENDS OF THE RIVERSIDE PARK”

NEWSLETTER 9

Following the formal opening of the park by the Mayor last August, steady progress has been made by the “Friends of the Park”. There have been “Friends” working parties every month during the winter and spring to maintain and enhance the park.



This spring, and in conjunction with the Council, we have been working towards gaining Green Flag status for the park. We now have a new Information display at the entrance of the park kindly sponsored by our Councillors. This provides some history of the Arts Centre and information on the trees and wildlife around the area. This information board is a pre-requisite to a Green Flag award, which seeks to confirm high standards for visitors.

The formal assessment by the Green Flag inspectors is scheduled for Monday 16 June and we hope to have the results soon after.

We are delighted that the “friends” have gained HMRC approval and is now registered as a small charity. That allows us to claim tax back on charitable donations up to £8000. We have also completed a grant application and have received a grant of £1000 for enhancements of the

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park; we are considering a mural on the southern wall of the swimming pool to discourage further graffiti.

The Harrow Arts Centre has scheduled another event in the park on Saturday 2 August for an openair production of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest”.

Other news

Bird-boxes: twelve new bird-boxes were installed early spring to encourage nesting. The bat boxes were inspected and found to be empty.

Planting: 650 daffodils were donated by Jacques Armand and others and were planted around the path in the park. It was particularly dry in the spring, but they all managed to come out and make a late spring display.

Giant Hogweed: the park was inspected for regrowth and any new seedlings were dug out and removed. However, there was some regrowth on National Rail property across their steel fence; we have contacted National Rail, and they are scheduling its removal in June.

Maintenance: a further section of the riverbank of the Pinn was cleared of brambles and sapling growth. The remaining sections of the fence



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beside the River Pinn were repaired to prevent access to areas still potentially containing Giant Hogweed. The sinuous footpath around the park was weeded. We had the support of the Council maintenance team who removed the recent graffiti of the swimming pool external walls.

Greenhill Building: The “Friends” have adopted the green area between the Greenhill Building and the Swimming Pool. A new hedge was planted beside the footpath and the bollards were reinstated. The green plot had become wilderness, and the larger weeds were scythed and removed during the winter. We hope to develop this area as a future project.

Drainage: the Council has added an additional drainage channel from the entrance of the park to the river.



‘The Friends of the Riverside Park’ have day to day management of the park, running monthly working parties with volunteers to maintain and enhance the park, clearing brambles, cutting grass and clearing access to the River Pinn. It is affiliated to the Harrow Parks Forum which is the independent group supporting all the Parks in Harrow.

If you wish to join the “Friends”, or receive our newsletter via email, please contact our chairman Graham Buckland, at riversideparkhatchend@gmail.com