



Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

**NEWS
Autumn
2025**

AUTUMN IS HERE!

We are now well into autumn and 2025's hot and dry summer is just a memory. It was beneficial to some plants, but not others, and some of the trees suffered greatly. The autumn colour is now with us and we hope that you are enjoying it. There are some marvellous displays of leaves and berries around the park.

Working parties from the FoPVG, together with other volunteers have been keeping the park looking good – we have even been donated a heavy-duty strimmer, which will greatly assist with some of the tougher overgrowth.

Planting bulbs and new plants has started

Volunteers are planting some 4,000 bulbs of all descriptions - *narcissus, tulips, alliums, iris reticulata, hyacinths and muscari* - in the beds in Pinner Village Gardens.

We are also planting *Carex* (which is grass-like), *Heuchera*, *Bergenia*, *Symphotrichum* (known as Asters or Michaelmas daisies to many) and replanting perennials that have ended up in the "wrong place".

We've also planted more *Viburnum* bushes at the Hereford Gardens entrance, which will extend the current rows to eventually grow to create cheerful walls of pink blossom throughout the winter.

We are working in all areas of the park, so look out for the new plants. We are also always looking for new volunteers to help with work in the park

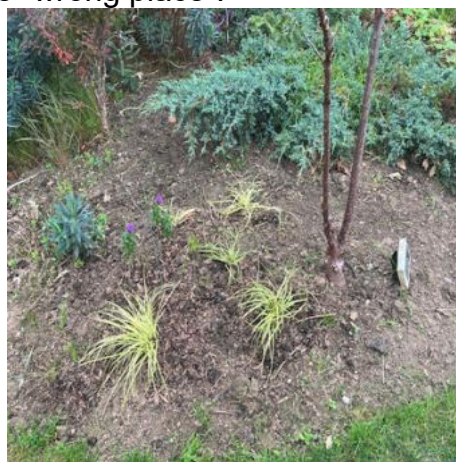


Photo right: New *Carex* in the 'Lottery' Bed

NEWSLETTER for FoPVG Members

Welcome to the latest edition of the all new newsletter for Life and Annual (individual and household) Friends of Pinner Village Gardens.

We aim to bring you news of the park and useful tips.

We hope to also provide the opportunity of exclusive visits or talks & training on looking after your plants and gardening.

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### IN THIS ISSUE

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## HERB PLANTERS

You may have noticed that the planters in the children's play area are looking a little worse for wear.

Although we have pruned the herbs, we are going to rebuild the planters over the winter months. If FoPVG funds allow we will also purchase new plants.

# HARROW COUNCIL AIMS TO REPURPOSE OLD PARK BUILDINGS

Leaflets have been delivered around the borough from Harrow Council seeking businesses to take on old park buildings to give them a new use.

You may have seen this on Harrow Council's website:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/news/article/11455/your-chance-to-help-bring-life-back-into-buildings-in-parks>

One of the buildings featured is the former toilet block in Pinner Village Gardens, so do not be surprised if you see people viewing this in the coming months.

Harrow council's website says:

'Applicants will need to meet the specified criteria and be an established local organisation or group who wants to invest in community and green spaces by reinventing



Pinner Village Gardens former public toilets (above) closed many decades ago.

and reimagining these buildings with proposals which have community at their heart.' Harrow Council has promised FoPVG two shipping containers in which to store our tools.

## DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR A CHAT?



The newly badged 'Chatty Bench' is overlooking the Rose Garden.



### Have you seen the Chatty Bench?

This is a scheme by the charity Anchor to help to combat loneliness in the community.

The idea is that we can contribute to reducing social isolation by encouraging people to speak to people who are sitting on the bench.

So if you walk past please stop have a chat ... or sit a while and enjoy the company of others. If you need a chat take a seat and hopefully someone will join you soon.

# CORPORATE AND ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

**The Friends of Pinner Village Gardens are continuing to attract offers of volunteering days from businesses keen to support communities and voluntary organisations.**

In Summer 2025 we were joined by a team from Wates Residential (Travis Perkins).

They were kept busy around the park and kindly donated a battery powered Strimmer to FoPVG.

Right: Jonathan models the new strimmer and puts it to good use.



Below: Some of Wates team with FoPVG volunteers Jonathan, Lorna & Maria.



A team from BDO LLP (below) joined us in September to help clear up trampled long grasses. It was no easy task getting the grass bagged up and totalled sixteen bags!



## Pond weeding

The London Geocachers kindly helped with weeding the pond again in late September. They have come out with their waders to help us a number of times in recent years.



Above: Clear water is visible again

Through summer growth, the pond becomes overgrown reducing the amount of open water that is needed for a healthy pond. The rush particularly successful and if left will become dominant, reducing the diversity of flora and fauna.

Thanks to all Geocashers (below) who took part in this very wet task!



# STARS COME OUT FOR EVENING BAT WALK

The start of Autumn with darker evenings enabled Simon Braidman, from Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, to host one of his regular bat walks in Pinner Village Gardens in mid-September.

This event followed Simon Braidman's ever popular Pond Dip during the school summer holiday in August.

The twenty people attending the Bat Walk - including those who had never been to the park before - were rewarded by seeing at least two types of bat.

## Mouse-eared bats

These were the small common *Pipistrelles* and the a much larger bat of the genus *Myotis* - commonly known as mouse-eared bats. These were probably Natter's or Duabenton's bat.

The bats were mostly seen in the northern-half of the park and the western edge where the trees are quite dense.

As there was still enough light the visitors could see that the pond was very active with carp and an unwelcome dumped goldfish, greater water boatman and greater and ram's horn pond snails.

## Summer triangle

As the evening darkened the stars came out for would-be-astronomers in the group to see the 'Summer Triangle' made up of three stars: Vega in the Lyre, Deneb in Cygnus and Altair in Aquila, and nearby constellations: Plough, Polaris, Cassiopeia and Cephus as well as the bright star Arcturus in Bootes.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the walk and regular visitors commented on how the park had improved over the last ten years since the Friends of PVG were established.

## Please help to keep the park beautiful by volunteering &/or joining the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

Since 2015 when the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens was established the park has been vastly improved with new flower beds, childrens playground, refurbished benches, numerous new trees & many volunteer working parties weeding and planting.

However, to keep the park beautiful it needs regular funding. Each year we need to buy items such as composts, fertilizers, replace worn-out tools & protective gloves, new plants to replace those lost to drought, winter cold and natural decline.

To help this continue please become a Member of the Friends or donate:

- Life £100
- Annual Family £20
- Annual Individual £10
- Additional Donations help hugely

To join or donate, please go to:

<https://www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk/join>

We would love to hear from you on topics or questions we might briefly cover in the newsletter.

Email us via the **Contact** page on our website

[www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk](http://www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk) or email

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Unless otherwise credited photos and articles by FoPVG

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Make new friends, learn new skills  
*Its not all gardening*

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We aim to get it right. Please forgive us if we get it wrong.

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