



Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

NEWS
Spring 2026

The Park in Spring

We hope you have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy the park now that Spring is here and the planting is really taking off. Pinner Village Gardens has now been inspected by the Green Flag inspectors for the first time. The results are expected in about six weeks. We will let you know when we have the results.

GREEN FLAG UPDATE



Harrow council has applied for Green Flag status for Pinner Village Gardens.

The park was inspected on 20 May 2026. The result is expected to be announced in about six weeks.

The Green Flag application was submitted and the park was inspected on Wednesday 20 May by 2 inspectors: one a park manager the other an ecologist specialising in fresh water aquatic environments for example ponds. We now await the results – which are not expected until late July.

To prepare for the inspection, we the volunteers and Harrow Council staff have doing a lot of work together. The Council particularly commissioned:

- Resurfacing and widening some of the footpaths
- Adding notice boards, including “interpretation” ie the map & description.
- Improving signage
- Repair/painting/replace and providing a new big bin.
- Cleaned benches

As well as grass mowing, tree pruning and removing dead branches and fallen trees.

Of course, the Friends gardening group have been working hard on planting, weeding, shrub pruning and mulching> Our litter pickers have been hard at work too! We will let you know the outcome once the results are published.

The Green Flag Award® is a non-profit international accreditation programme that recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces.

Originating in 1996 - today the Green Flag Award proudly flies above more than 2,000 places in over 15 countries around the world.

NEWSLETTER for FoPVG Supporters

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.

~~~~~

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Green Flag Award**

**Rayner's Point**

**Rhododendrons or Azaleas?**

**Fallen Trees**

**The Park in Spring**

**Pond Fountain**

**Fundraising**

**Noticeboards**

## FUND RAISING ON A WINDY SUNDAY

**The Friends of Pinner Village Gardens are continuing to fundraise as we need about £4,000 each year to maintain our beautiful park**

On a very blowy Sunday 10 May, we had a small fundraising event after the regular Junior Park Run. However, on this Sunday they were joined by Hillside Infant School, Northwood and Reddiford School, Pinner to produce their largest gathering to date with 223 juniors taking part in the run supported by a team of 33 volunteers.

FoPVG is delighted that many of those attending gave generous donations – essential to us being able to maintain and even improve the park's current standard.

We are entirely self-funding and the money we raise will go towards plants and equipment. This year, for example, we had to replace all of the lavender bushes at the Stone Circle.

Much of the ground is also in need of improvement so you will see white bags containing mulch or soil improver. Bulbs also reach the end of their useful life after about three years - at the end of last year we planted about 4,000, and we also have to replace tools that break.

We will fundraise again later in the year – look out for us!



Above: Some of FoPVG Committee out on the Sunday morning: Left to right: Jonathan (volunteer coordinator, Lorna (editor), Stephen (treasurer), Sarah (chair) and Glyn (FoPVG committee member & local parkrun director).



## Does the fountain in the pond work?

The fountain in the pond is turned on as necessary for a short while.

This is because when water levels drop in dry and/or hot weather – and this Spring was both dry and hot - the pond needs to be refilled to help the wild life.

Although the fountain looks nice when its water is on, unfortunately cannot leave the fountain on because the water (which comes from the mains) as it does not recirculate, so the whole area would flood and water wasted.



## New notice boards map the park

*Have you seen the new notice boards in Pinner Village Gardens?*



The new boards include a map of the park and highlight some of its features and history.

The boards also display the Bye-laws.

These help to remind park visitors that bicycles must be wheeled (walked) and not ridden through the park.

These were provided by the London Borough of Harrow.

### ***What to look for .....***

A new innovation by the Friends of PVG is now on the notice boards. We are putting up 'What to look for' in the coming months. Currently its 'What to look for May and June'\* includes emerging dragonflies at the pond and the tulip tree\*.

We will continue to put more information on the boards to help you appreciate everything the park has to offer.

\*The flowers of the yellow tulip tree '*Liriodendron tulipifera*'.

\*





# Rhododendrons or Azaleas?

## We have both in Pinner Village Gardens!

The azalea beds - or are they rhododendron beds - have been in full bloom recently. They have been fed, the beds mulched and six new plants put in to replace those that have died.

### We are often asked whether the plants are rhododendrons or azaleas.

Azaleas are a sub-set of Rhododendrons. All azaleas are rhododendrons, but not all rhododendrons are azaleas. The botanical name for an azalea is rhododendron.

Azaleas usually have single flowers whereas rhododendrons are usually in trusses. Most azaleas have 5 stamens, while other rhododendrons have 10, but there are exceptions.

Azalea leaves are smaller, thinner and smoother than rhododendrons which are leathery or scaly. The flowers are different too – the azaleas more tube-like.

Azaleas are usually deciduous, while other rhododendrons are evergreen, grow larger and have bigger leaves.

You should be able to spot both types in the park - you decide which is which! The big white ones elsewhere in the park are definitely rhododendrons.



## Rayner's Point now planted

We've had lots of compliments about the new planting in an area that we've called "Rayner's Point". The area had become overgrown with brambles to the point where it was becoming a monoculture.

Together with corporate volunteers from Sky and the Geocashers we cleared the area, exposing a small grove of trees, improved the soil and planted it with shrubs and perennials.



## ***TIMBER!* ...Fallen Trees**

A number of trees have fallen in the park during the last few months.



A tree in full leaf, trunk snapped, blown down by the wind.

### **Why have so many fallen in the last year or two?**

We were concerned and so asked Harrow council's tree's officer for this part of the borough to visit the park.

The reasons for fallen trees include several factors, in combination, such as: rot, age, drought, windy weather, with wet ground and dry ground affecting stability.

### **Triple trunk weeping willow**

We have been asked by park visitors why the Weeping Willow was felled.

This tree had three large trunks. During the strong winds in early Spring one of the trunks crashed down - fortunately no one was injured.

Some park visitors will have seen it on the ground blocking the path into the park. It was quickly cleared by tree surgeons.

The fallen trunk exposed rot affecting all three trunks. Harrow Council's Trees Officer inspected the remaining trunks. The inspection determined that the rot had caused a structural weakness and therefore a very significant safety risk. Sadly this meant the other two trunks had to be removed. Willows are however very resilient and this will keep growing as you will see from a fallen willow elsewhere in the park



Felled weeping willow near Whittington Way

### **What happens to the felled trunks and branches?**

The logs may be piled up to create additional habitats for wild life. Tall stumps are generally left to support wildlife.

## **HOW TO REPORT FALLEN AND UNSAFE TREES**

Anyone can report fallen trees in parks or streets to Harrow Council. The sooner they are reported the sooner they are made safe and cleared. You need to be able to give a nearest address/location and a photograph helps.

Please use this link: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/environment-parks/harrows-trees/5>

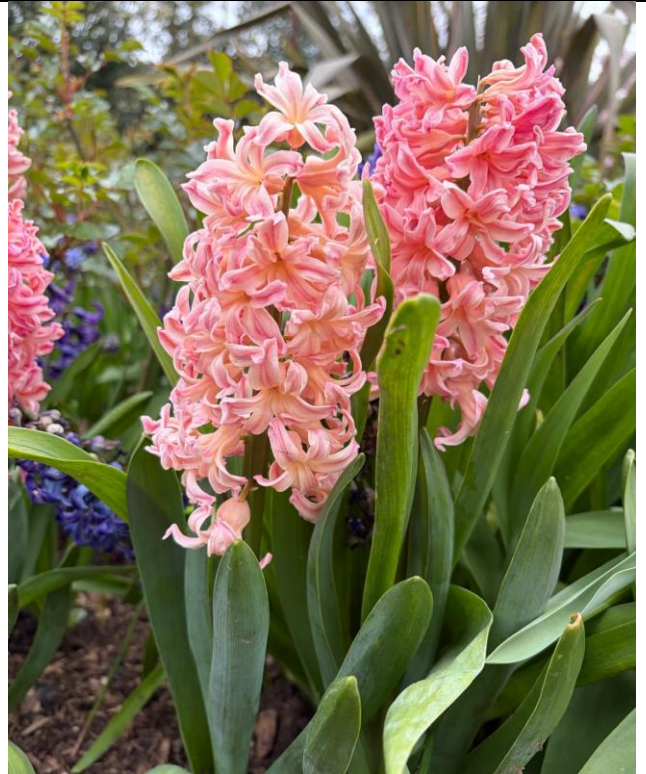


## Spring in Pinner Village Gardens

After a hot, dry summer, and nearly two months when it rained every day, spring seems to have been long, dry and cold, which are not ideal conditions for many plants or animals. However, everything is now bursting into blossom and flower.



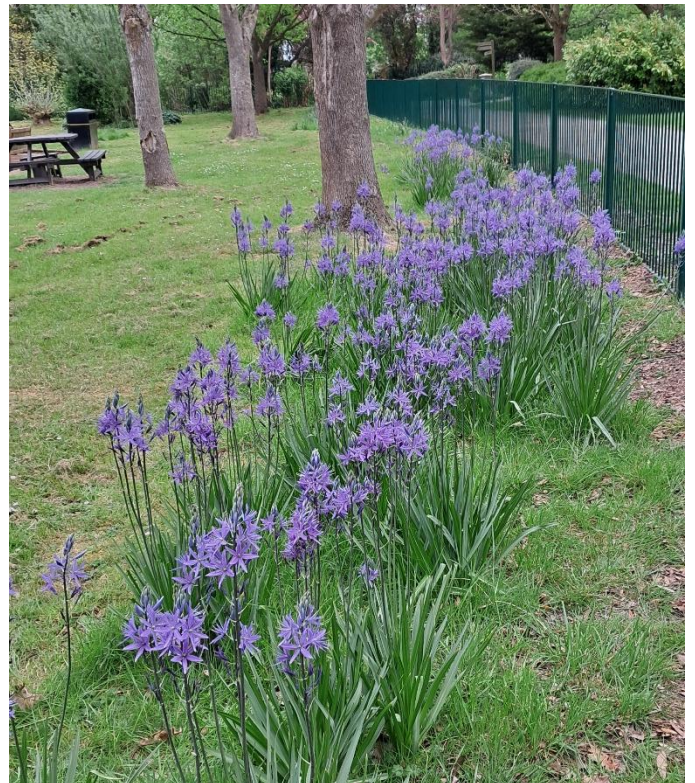
Tulips in the Rose Garden



Fragrant *Hyacinth Sweet Invitation*  
at Stone Circle



*Cercis Canadensis* also known as the redbud tree at the Whittington Way entrance. It flowers directly off its branches.



Blue *Camassia leichtlinii* - also known as quamash - in the Playground.



*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 keep the park beautiful.*

## **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>**



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

Email:

**[Volunteer@pinnervillagegardens.org.uk](mailto:Volunteer@pinnervillagegardens.org.uk)**

**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

**[friendsofpinnervillagegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpinnervillagegardens@gmail.com)**

Unless otherwise credited photos and articles by FoPVG  
Committee Member. Editor: Lorna A.

© Published by Friends of Pinner Village Gardens.

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

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

This Newsletter is sent to paid up subscribers first, that is Life Members and Individual & Family Annual members. Later it will be added to the website. By not being a member you may miss out on opportunities such as exclusive visits or gardening advice.