



Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

**NEWS
Winter
2025/6**

GOING FOR GREEN!

We are delighted that Harrow Council has applied for prestigious Green Flag status for Pinner Village Gardens.

Of course, we believe, and know that many of you do too, that it is deserved (but then again we are biased).

We hope to get this award and so be able to fly this flag:



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

We expect the decision to be made some time in the summer, after an inspection by the Green Flag team.

It's great news for the park as it promotes standards of good management and best practice in the green sector. We would need to meet rigorous standards regarding cleanliness, safety, biodiversity, environmental management and community involvement. So, if we get the award, it would be a feather in our cap.

As part of the process, Harrow Council have said that they will:

- Resurface and widen some of the footpaths – this will particularly benefit park users as some paths are now in a state of poor repair
- Replace/improve notice boards, including better “interpretation”
- Improve signage
- Repair/replace and provide new bins
- Repair/ replace and provide new benches
- Possibly refurbish the children's play area.

We will keep you informed of progress.

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.

AUTUMN PLANTING

We finished planting some 4,000 spring bulbs before Christmas 2025 - earlier than the previous year, thanks to our new volunteers. For more information on what to look forward to in Spring please see page 2.

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.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING 2026

While we are waiting for the bulbs to flower, here are some fun facts about some of the bulbs we have planted in the park:

Is it a daffodil or Narcissus?

The botanical name for the **daffodil** is *Narcissus*, named after a young man known for his beauty in Greek mythology who was tricked into falling in love with his own reflection. The drooping flowers that characterise most daffodils are said to represent Narcissus bending over to catch his reflection in a pool of water.

The Romans are known to have planted daffodils in memory of loved ones or comrades fallen in battle. It's likely they brought them to Britain from the Iberian Peninsula, predominantly Spain and Portugal, where the largest variety of daffodil species are found.



We tend to call the big ones daffodils and the narrower, more elegant ones Narcissus. In the park we have both.

A plant in demand from Central Asia to Europe



Jparkers

Tulip 'Little Beauty' only 15 cm tall

Although **tulips** are often associated with The Netherlands, they are originally native to Central Asia - particularly in regions that are part of modern-day Kazakhstan, Iran, and Turkey. They came to Western Europe in the late 1500s.

Tulips were once more valuable than gold and sparked the world's first economic bubble? In the early 17th century, the Netherlands experienced a period known as *Tulip Mania*. During this remarkable era, certain rare varieties of tulip bulbs became so highly prized that people traded houses, estates, and immense sums of money just to own them.

There are varieties for flowering every month March to June.

First to flower in the New Year

Snowdrops are one of the first flowers to appear in the new year. In the northern hemisphere snowdrops can be seen appearing as early as January, weather permitting. They usually flower between the months of January and April. In the park 8,000 were planted a few years ago by FoPVG between the avenue of oaks.

They have a Greek name *Galanthus*, which translates as 'milk flower'. As they flower so early, snowdrops do not rely on pollinators to reproduce. Instead, they spread via bulb division. However, they may still be visited by bees and other insects on a particularly warm day.

There are also bulbs that look similar but have bigger grey-green leaves and can be multi-stemmed.

These are *Leucojum vernum*, commonly known as the Spring Snowflake – look for them in the Hereford beds.



Above: Snowdrop *Galanthus elwessii*.

Below: Spring snowflake, *Leucojum vernum*





JParkers

*Hyacinth Oceans
Delight* planted at
Whittington Way gate

Heady fragrance from Greek tragedy

Like with many flowers, **hyacinths** have got their name from a beautiful yet tragic Greek myth.

While there are variations of this tale, the story goes: Handsome Hyacinthus was loved by both the god Apollo and the west wind Zephyrus.

When Zephyrus got jealous of Apollo, she blew the discus the pair were playing with off course, which ultimately ended up striking Hyacinthus in the head killing him. Devastated by the loss, Apollo turned the blood of Hyacinthus into a flower which he named hyacinth.

A spring splash of colour from a tiny rainbow

Its been suggested that the earliest messenger of the gods was the rainbow. In Greek, the word “**iris**” means rainbow! In the park we have *Iris reticulata*. They originate in a band from Turkey, the Caucasus to Iran.

Only 15 cm tall, these are small bulbs, flowering in early spring at the same time as crocus. Sadly – like a rainbow – they do not last for very long. Colours available include, white, yellow, plum and purple and all shades of blue.



Iris reticulata

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.

What's going on here?

A number of people have asked what is happening at Rayner's Point – the section half-way down the path that runs parallel to Rayners Lane.

The answer is that we have cleared the area - with help from Sky Engineers* - which was overgrown with brambles in preparation for some new planting. (Please see page 5)

We have spread wood chip over the area, to which we will be adding horticultural grit, manure and new soil in March.



Rayners Point



New plants will include *Fatsia japonica* (above).

There's still a way to go but we intend to get the planting done in Spring, so watch out for developments.

WINTER IN THE PARK

Winter doesn't have to be boring in the park. Although many plants are dormant or have shed their leaves there is still a lot of colour from the dogwood, ornamental grasses, berries, evergreens, fragrant Viburnums and Daphne. There is plenty to be seen and enjoyed:



Frost adds a sparkle to fallen leaves



Hawthorn berries



Cornus (dogwood) stems provide winter colour



A wintery scene in the park did snow this winter
Volunteers were out pruning at the time



Frozen pond

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.

Many thanks to a team of engineers from Sky who volunteered to come out on a cold November day.

They were kept busy pruning shrubs and old brambles and digging over the ground at Rayner's Point in preparation for replanting in Spring.

It was a big job and couldn't have been done without such a large group.



The park's neighbours were puzzled at why there were so many Sky vehicles parked all in one place, But the FoPVG facebook page explained the mystery.



The Sky team in Pinner Village Gardens

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

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 or email

friendsofpinnervillagegardens@gmail.com

Unless otherwise credited photos and articles by FoPVG
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We aim to get it right. Please forgive us if we get it wrong.

www.pinnervillagegardens.org.uk

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