



Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

**NEWS
Summer
2026**

WE'VE GOT THE GREEN FLAG !

We are delighted to announce that Pinner Village Gardens has been awarded Green Flag status.

We will now be able to fly this flag in the park.



It's official !



FoPVG Volunteers with Mayor of Harrow Yogesh Teli

It's official!! Pinner Village Gardens has been awarded Green Flag status. Naturally, we the committee of the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens are delighted that the park has been awarded Green Flag standard. We think it is a testament to the work of the FoPVG volunteers and the staff at Harrow Council that this has been achieved.

Great news

It's great news for the park as it promotes standards of good management and best practice in the green sector. We met rigorous standards regarding cleanliness, safety, biodiversity, environmental management and community involvement.

There will be a flag-raising ceremony in due course and we will let you know when we have the details.

We will have to continue to work and innovate to keep the accreditation.

Inspections are annual so we will make sure that we continue to meet the Green Flag criteria.

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.

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CHELSEA COMES TO PINNER!

Very many thanks to May Starey who donated a selection of plants from her balcony garden which won a Silver Gilt medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show. This was even more impressive as it was May's first ever exhibition garden.

Among the plants donated were:

Geum avens, *Iris 'Pendant Gold Bound'*, *Iris vesicular Gerald Darby*, and *Potentilla palustris*

Some of the donated plants are for the pond others for boggy conditions.

Some are already planted in the pond, while the others are being kept wet and will be planted when the weather is wetter and they will be more likely to survive.

May learnt about PVG's pond through Dodie when they were studying garden design at Capel Manor Horticultural College.

We will now always have a piece of the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in Pinner Village Gardens!



Above: May Starey and Dodie Melville-Riddell planting at the pond.



Above: May in the balcony garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



Hot Weather

We have had a particularly hot and dry spell recently with two official heat waves. Whilst many people are enjoying the sunshine, it's not good news for some of the plants.

We have been watering using a hose. However, now there is a hosepipe ban in the area, so we will continue to water but have to use watering cans – which is very labour intensive. We will focus on those in most need. We hope the plants will survive and that it will rain.

FIRE SAFETY - NO BBQs

It's also important to note that no barbecues are allowed in any of the parks in Harrow at any time.

The grass is very dry at the moment and hot coals and naked flames are dangerous. Harrow council will take action against anyone found barbecuing in the parks.



GROUND MARKS POSSIBLY SHOW OLD FARM BUILDINGS

However, the dry weather has thrown up some surprises. There are lines and patches which could indicate where the foundations of buildings that were either part of the farm or in the park

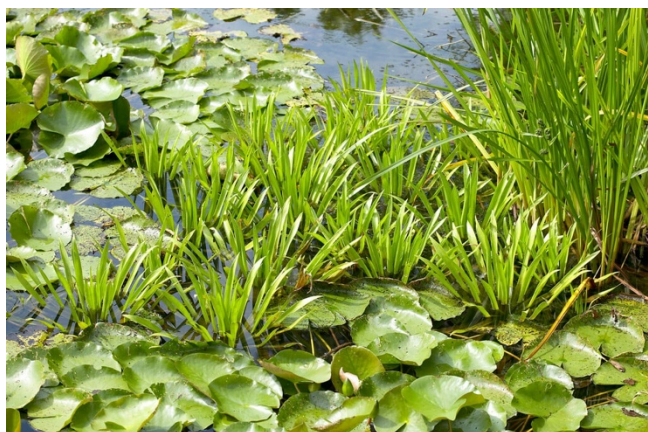


Above: A mystery patch could indicate where a building once stood

***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.***

Summer in the Park

The summer is peak time for animals and plants. Take a look at the pond. You will see many dragonflies and damsel-flies enjoying the sun, and lesser water boatmen - insects that skim over the water's surface. Water lilies are also flowering, as well as water soldiers – plants that rise to the surface of the pond in the summer and sink to the bottom in the winter. Elsewhere, bees are busy collecting nectar on the lavender bushes day lilies (Hemerocallis) are starting to flower at Rayner's Point. Our fabulous roses are either in bloom or getting ready to produce a “second flush” of flowers.



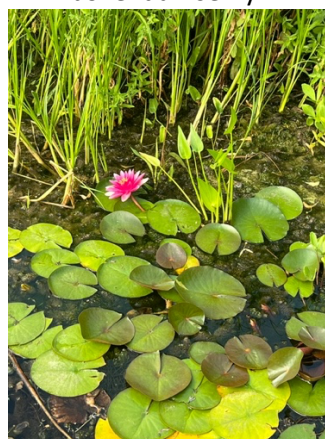
Above: Water soldiers and water lilies



Left: water boatman



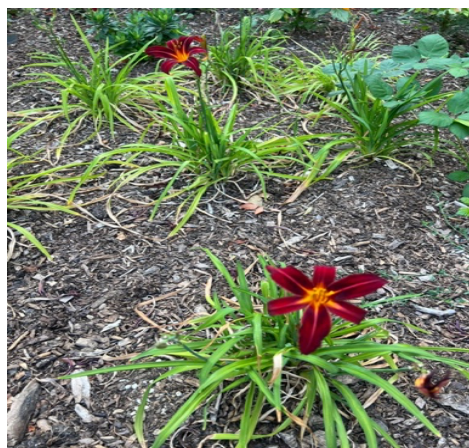
Above: damselfly



Above: water lilies at the pond



Above: bees visiting lavender at Rayners Lane entrance



Above: Day lilies Hemerocallis 'Crimson Pirate' starting to flower

Do Beans Grow on Trees?

The answer is yes, if they grow on an Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) There is a large specimen at Everest Circle (near the climbing wall). The tree produces bean like pods at this time of year, which although decorative, are not edible. Have a look when you are next in the park. There are many interesting trees in the park and we are aiming to publish a tree identification walk in the future.



Above: Indian Bean Tree in flower in spring



Above: Decorative beans

FUNDRAISING TARGET £4,000 EVERY YEAR

Following our fundraising event in May, we've decided that we will hold another on **Sunday 27 September**. We are going to extend the event so that we are in the park for a longer period of time.

At this stage of the year we will need to purchase more spring bulbs, and other perennials. We need to refresh the bulbs because they only have a limited lifespan. Many (particularly tulips) produce smaller flowers after a couple of years.

Bulbs and plants also die because of weather conditions, old age and animal predation – squirrels are very fond of bulbs and slugs and snails love tender leaves.

Right: Some of the volunteers who work in the park – look out for us!

To keep the park looking beautiful we spend about £4,000 each year on tools, plants and bulbs, soil & composts.

On the same day, our friends from Geocachers will be at the pond, removing unnecessary and over-productive vegetation to improve biodiversity. We hope to see you all there.



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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