



The countryside charity
London

**GO PARKS
LONDON***



Parks for
London

LFGN

London
Friends of
Green Spaces
Network

Which London boroughs are gaining the most benefits from Park Friends Groups?

May 2023

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CPRE London runs the [GoParksLondon](#) project and works with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network ([LFGN](#)) to support London's park friends groups

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1. Foreword and summary

This report summarises data on Park Friends Groups' activities in each London borough and presents the results of a survey carried out in January 2023 which received 69 responses, where friends groups were asked to report on achievements, activities and challenges in 2022.

Park Friends Groups are key to delivering social and environmental objectives. They volunteer to help maintain and improve parks and also run events and activities so more people enjoy parks.

London's 900 Park Friends Groups make an enormous contribution to the maintenance and improvement of London's parks, and to ensuring health and wellbeing benefits are maximised. There are over 900 groups in London with a combined membership of around 100,000. London-wide this represents a volunteer effort of an estimated 900,000 volunteer hours per year.¹ Recognising and supporting this effort is a key factor in the annual *Good Parks for London* audit² and *Parks for London* awards.

But friends group activity is much stronger in some London boroughs than others. This means councils and residents in some areas are feeling the benefits much more than others. The number of groups in each borough ranges from just a few to over fifty. Only half of boroughs have an active friends forum, leaving many which would benefit from having one. Around half have GoParksLondon promotions campaigns, but half are without. (See p4 for the data.)

There is substantial opportunity for the benefits park friends groups bring to be felt more widely. A large number of councils and residents are missing out.

CPRE London and the London Friends of Green Spaces Network offer supportive partnerships to boroughs through the GoParksLondon project, which assists friends groups, forums and boroughs seeking to grow and develop volunteering activity in green spaces.

We want the beneficial impact of Park Friends Groups to be felt by all Londoners and look forward to working with friends groups and boroughs towards achieving this.

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Dave Morris, Chair, London Friends of Green Spaces Network
Tony Leach, Parks for London



¹ [Better Friends: the state of the movement of greenspace friends groups throughout the UK](#) September 2021

² [Good Parks for London](#) reports

2. Data / survey results on London Park Friends Groups and borough forums

Data on number of friends groups and borough friends groups forums is set out in the table opposite. The data show:

- There are 926 park friends groups in London (see Section 3 on the benefits friends groups bring)
- 441 of London's park friends groups are registered with GoParksLondon project meaning they are benefitting from support via the project (see Section 5 on GoParksLondon)
- The number of groups in each borough ranges from just a few to over fifty
- There is a Friends Group Forum in 23 of 33 boroughs; 13 of these are very active; 15 are independent of the council (see Section 4 for more on the benefits of forums)
- Via the GoParksLondon project, CPRE London has supported promotions campaigns (promoting parks / friends groups / volunteering) in 17 boroughs (see Section 5)

Seven boroughs have an active, independent forum and a GoParksLondon promotions campaign so are currently in the best possible position to ensure the beneficial impact of Park Friends Groups is felt by all residents.

London friends groups were surveyed in January 2023. They were asked:

- What were your group's top achievements of 2022?
- What improvements did you make to your site in 2022?
- Did you hold any community events to encourage people into the site, and if so, what did you do?
- What challenges did you encounter in 2022?

There was an excellent response to the survey and 69 groups responded. **Full survey responses are set out below at pages 8-17. Read what friends groups around London are doing and achieving, and the challenges they face.** The responses were too varied to summarise and are worth reading in full. This will benefit friends groups and boroughs who wish to know more about what London park friends groups are doing and achieving.

Borough (Green = optimal)	(1)	(2) No. Friends Groups reported by boroughs	(3) No. Friends Groups reg'd with GoParks London	Is there a Borough Friends Group Forum?	How active is the forum?	Is the forum independent of the council?	(4) Is a GoParksLondon promotions campaign underway?
Barking & Dag	O	6	3	Not known			
Barnet	O	40	18	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Bexley	O	6	2	Yes	Not known	Not known	
Brent	O	12	20	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Bromley	O	52	20	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Croydon	O	45	15	Yes	Not known	No	
Ealing	O	25	14	Yes	Very	Work closely	Yes
Enfield	O	32	19	Yes	Very	No	Yes
Harrow	O	35	18	Yes	Very	Yes	
Havering	O	19	9	Not known			
Hillingdon	O	5	5	Not known			
Hounslow	O	26	9	Yes	Quite	Yes	
Kingston	O	30	10	Yes	Very	No	Yes
Merton	O	41	24	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Redbridge	O	13	6	Not known			
Richmond	O	77	10	Yes	Quite	Yes	
Sutton	O	19	19	Yes	Very	No	Yes
Waltham Forest	O	25	7	Yes	Establishing	Yes	
Camden	I	20	21	Not known			Yes
City of London	I	No data	1	Not known			
Greenwich	I	26	11	Yes	Very	Yes	
Hackney	I	27	16	Yes	Not known	No	Yes
Ham & Fulham	I	27	10	Not known			
Haringey	I	48	33	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Islington	I	58	21	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Ken & Chelsea	I	6	2	Not known			
Lambeth	I	41	21	Yes	Quite	Yes	Yes
Lewisham	I	37	23	Yes	Quite	Yes	Yes
Newham	I	12	7	Yes	Establishing	Yes	Yes
Southwark	I	80	17	Not known			
Tower Hamlets	I	20	12	Yes	Not known	Not known	Yes
Wandsworth	I	12	10	Yes	Very	Yes	Yes
Westminster	I	4	8	Not known			
Total:		926	441	23/33 yes	13/33 very	15/33 yes	17/33 yes

(1) Outer / Inner London (note Greenwich, Newham and Haringey are sometimes classified as Outer, but here as Inner)

(2) Number of Friends Groups reported by the borough to Parks for London 2022 (data in red is from 2020)

(3) Number of groups registered with GoParksLondon who we have direct links with and can offer direct support to.

(4) See section 5 for explanation of GoParksLondon promotions campaigns

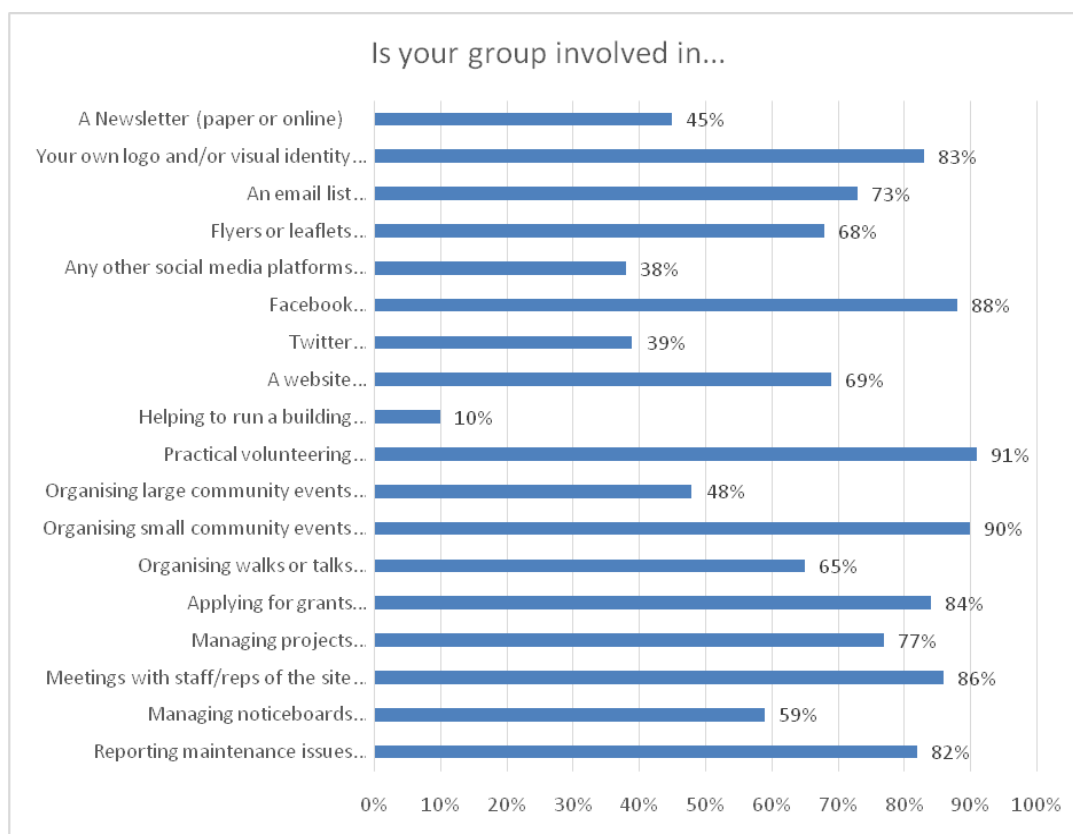
3. What do Park Friends Groups do and what benefits do they bring?

Friends Groups bring benefits for their members, for the site they love and want to improve, for the surrounding communities they are part of, and for those who manage and own green spaces.

36% contribute 200-1,000 hours per year; 18% of groups report 1,000-5,000 hours per year; and 5% reckon over 5,000 hours. The weighted average is estimated to be around 1,000 hours per group, meaning around 7 million hours per year throughout the UK.³ Park Friends Groups:

- **advocate** for improvements, new attractions, or simply for the park's continued care
- **are a volunteer workforce**, helping maintain and improve the fabric of the park, planting and landscaping, picking litter etc., in partnership with the council
- **fundraise** directly or support councils with fundraising or obtaining free resources
- **help more people gain more benefits from a park**, encouraging them to use it in different ways, organising events for people to enjoy their local space with events, walks, etc., and promoting historical and ecological knowledge of the space e.g. bat walks
- **support community cohesion**, providing opportunities for communities to come together
- promote and provide opportunities for **volunteering**
- provide opportunities for **social contact**
- enable people to capture the **health** and wellbeing benefits of a park.

Statistics from the national 'Better Friends' survey, 2021



³ [Better Friends 2021](#)

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FRIENDS GROUPS FOR PARKS & GREEN SPACES?



FOR VOLUNTEERS	FOR GREEN SPACE	FOR MANAGERS	FOR COMMUNITIES
HEALTH Improve fitness and wellbeing	INVESTMENT Additional funding, volunteering, skills and lobbying	EYES & EARS People watching out and reporting back	STANDARDS Improvement, greater usage and optimism
EMPOWERMENT Experience ownership, take initiative and make a difference	PROTECTION Monitoring championing and defence of site	RECOGNITION Appreciation of work done	CONNECTIONS Physical and social interaction
INFLUENCE Have a real say in decision-making and improvements	PROMOTION Publicity and encouragement to use	SUPPORT Help with maintenance, promotion and activities	COHESION Connect diverse interests, ages and backgrounds
MEANING Give purpose and pride	DECISION-MAKING Better and more popular decisions, engagement and continuity	IMPROVEMENT Aspirations and standards raised	PROTECTION Community champions and long term investment
ENJOYMENT Being involved is exciting and fun	USAGE More visitors, natural benefits and appreciation	PARTNERSHIP People to discuss, work and coordinate with	PRIDE Sense of achievement and ownership
FRESH AIR Great way to get outside and into green space	SAFETY Community surveillance helps deter crime	FEEDBACK Information and views	WELLBEING Enabling and promoting positive lifestyles
AWARENESS Get to know about nature, the community and the neighbourhood	IMPROVEMENT Better standards, and extra facilities and features	SATISFACTION Increased public usage and happiness	OPPORTUNITIES Encouraging volunteering and participation
CONNECTIONS Connect with others and explore common interests	ANIMATION More activities and initiatives, vibrancy and innovation	CHAMPIONS People speaking out for the needs of the space	AWARENESS Spreading information and communication
LEARNING Use, acquire and develop skills	COLLABORATION Development of relations and partnerships	EXPERTISE Extra knowledge and skills through volunteers	COMMUNITY SPIRIT Encouraging solidarity and co-operation
RECOGNITION Be part of activity which is valued and appreciated	MAINTENANCE Fast reporting, timely action and extra help	INVESTMENT Additional funding and new projects	INSPIRATION Example of what can be achieved by community action

4. What benefits do borough 'forums' bring?

Over 20 London boroughs already have a forum for Friends Groups. These can be loose communications networks, occasional meetings hosted by local authority officers, or well organised and independent organisations working regularly with Council officers as partners.

The London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) aims to ensure there is an independent Park Friends Groups Forum in each borough. This is because forums are crucial to borough-wide communication and coordination among Friends Groups, sharing good practice, partnerships with local authorities, and making representations on strategic greenspace issues. Forums convened by and dependent on council officers are better than having no forum at all. However, LFGN believes outcomes are better for all parties if forums are independent of - but partners with - the council.⁴

5. What benefits does the GoParksLondon project bring for friends groups and boroughs?

GoParksLondon is a partnership project run by CPRE London in conjunction with LFGN and supported by Parks for London and the London Parks and Gardens Trust. It aims to support London's Park Friends Groups and boroughs to promote their local parks, Friends Groups, and the volunteering opportunities they offer, including by providing a map-based online platform.

The project provides an attractive, easy-to-use map for each borough, showing all parks and the friends groups which have registered. There is a page for each site and group.

GoParksLondon also currently runs promotions campaigns in 17 London boroughs (and hopes to extend this to all boroughs eventually), to encourage the public to explore and use parks, join friends groups and volunteer. The local campaigns involve:

- publicity (sharing attractive promotional assets on social media and via council publications) to promote parks, friends groups and volunteering, as well as relevant council and organisational activities and initiatives
- local events to generate interest and involvement
- working with friends groups and the council to support the creation of new friends groups and the development of friends groups forums.



⁴ Excellent examples include Barnet, Bromley, Haringey, Islington and Merton

6. FULL SURVEY RESULTS: London Park Friends Groups' 2022 activity, achievements and challenges

In January 2023 we surveyed London's Parks Friends Groups on their activities and achievements during 2022. We received an amazing 69 responses. A huge thanks for these! The work is so varied it is hard to summarise so the responses are set out in full here. **These detailed responses are well worth a read, for Friends Groups looking to know more about what other groups are doing; or for boroughs looking for more detail about the type of impacts Friends Groups can have.** We asked:

- What were your group's top achievements of 2022?
- What improvements did you make to your site in 2022?
- Did you hold any community events to encourage people into the site, and if so, what did you do?
- What challenges did you encounter in 2022?

What were your group's top achievements of 2022?

1. Continuing to protect and enhance the community and environmental value of the network of open spaces along the lower Crane valley
2. Established October 2022 (we are a new group). Spring **bulb planting**. Making contacts with local community groups & possible donors.
3. Expanding our volunteer base; Horticultural Project developing historic **long border and flower beds**; Working with **young people**, including REACH project for yr9 children at **risk of permanent exclusion**; Forging links with local schools.
4. We started producing a Green Links **map of walking routes** in Sutton
5. Official Opening of the garden following our project to clear, replant it as well as **restore and repaint heritage railings** and gate and install a ramp to make it more accessible.
6. Maintaining area's semi-rural appearance, **maintenance of white gates**, clearance of watercourses
7. Raising enough funding to begin working on our project to bring a **café** and much needed **toilets** to Firs Farm. Planting 500 young trees
8. We held a monthly **litterpick** which we advertised via our facebook page. We worked with **schoolchildren** from George Spicer and Kingsmead Schools to develop a **wildlife trail** throughout the park. We also began work on a new **sensory area** in the wildlife garden. Finally we won a gold award for the **wildlife garden** and a bronze award for our **kitchen garden** from Enfield in bloom
9. Installation of four **new picnic benches**. Production of a tree identification leaflet featuring trees in our park. Planting of a scented **rose bush** walk in our walled garden. Production of a new, **detailed map** of Canons Park.
10. Holding a number of very successful **community events** after the restrictions of the pandemic; developing and arranging **display panels** for the refurbished playground which explain the parks history; continuing to develop our campaign to prevent building on part of the park.
11. Green Flag; **Family Fun Day**; Landscape Artist competition; **Bee and Butterfly Garden**; Go London walk through Sutton parks
12. Running regular sessions at the allotment for parents and children where they have the opportunity to learn how to **grow fruit and vegetables** and connect with each other.
13. We have **planted 4 new trees** to add to 10 trees we have planted in past years. We have planted over **thousand bulbs**, some in the grass areas and the rest in our 6 big flower beds. This year we have a young student doing her Duke of Edinburgh silver medal award with us. Great to have young people getting interested in gardening. Our flower are much commented on, and in previous year we won a **Best in Bloom Community Gardens** awarded by the borough.

14. Planting **13 new trees**; getting enough **volunteers to water** them each week June to September, during the drought; planting 4 new areas; liaising with the council on **improving the playground**
15. New **raised beds** / return to events /new **bat boxes** and bulb planting.
16. TLC delivered to existing **flowerbeds, rockery and wild area**.
17. **Rose garden** renovation: shifting tons of topsoil and planting up beautiful new roses, clematis and long-flowering underplanting. Planting thousands of **bulbs** in a new Jubilee Walk, with 12 flowering cherry trees.
18. (1) Persuading the Council to introduce **recycling** on all the borough's large greenspaces. (2.) Completing our Friend's donor funded **tree planting** programme of 100 trees and volunteer **screen hedging planting**. (3.) Incentivising new **butterfly and moth recorders**. (4.) Providing an interesting programme of **walks and talks** on both nature and heritage focussed topics to engage users; (5.) Publishing a new **heritage trail map** and co-producing with the management company a **leaflet for outdoor fitness providers**; getting agreement from one of these latter to run a regular **over 60s fitness class**.
19. Maintenance and conservation
20. Installation of a **living willow arch** and two raised beds, installing **4 benches** in the parks, creating a memorial **rose bed**, keeping our 60 young trees and the willow arch **watered** during the heatwave, hosting the first ever **Pride family event** in the parks
21. Restoring several green space areas along the river, notably a **Riverview Garden** and a Figgy Garden.
22. Improved visitor facilities
23. Keeping the gardens going through the drought! **Extending the Volunteer Scheme** to cover other areas of the gardens.
24. We **raised over £200,000**, turned our concept design into a full design, received a Grow Back Greener grant, allocated a project manager from the council and have submitted Planning Permission!
25. Installation of **exercise equipment**, 2 new **benches** and 3 new **trees** which were obtained through a grant from Merton Council
26. Our working groups of volunteers continued to **maintain** and manage a number of sites in our park, including the orchard field and woodland (for which we got a Green Flag Community Award), help maintain our river channel, and do regular **litter picking**. We organised a range of **community events**, including a **wassail** and **apple day** in the orchard, our annual **Flower and Produce Show**, and a Luke Howard 250th Anniversary '**Clouds Appreciation**' event (which included us designing and installing an Interpretation Board and a new Weather Station in our community-run Hub building) - as a result Lordship Rec has been designated as the world's first 'Cloud Appreciation Park'.. We helped the Shell Performing Arts Collective to **repaint our outdoor theatre** with a new mural and hold a re-launch event.
27. 14 **litter picking** sessions. **Food Forest Garden** planted. 5 **Forest School sessions** held. 1,000 **bulbs** planted.
28. **Planting a copse** of mature trees, all sponsored, to celebrate H.M. the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, to support her Green Canopy project and to create our own legacy. Also running two **art competitions**, one of which was rolled out across the Borough and the other was focussed on children, increasing the number of Friends, getting more Friends active and helping the park gain a **Gold award** from London in Bloom and its second Green Flag in a row.
29. Raising awareness of consultation process, growing **membership from zero to 400**, obtaining circa 600 signatures on petition and making connections with other organisations.
- 30. Art & Music Festival**
31. **Holly clearance**, path and step **maintenance**
32. Putting on events: **Art in the Park** and an **open-air theatre** performance of The Reluctant Dragon. Keeping the park **tidy** & planting **bulbs**.
33. Building two **bug hotels**

34. Green Flag Award at first attempt
35. We achieved a **Silver Gilt Award** in the London in Bloom Competition and a Level 5 in Its Your Neighbourhood
36. Designing and preparing an area for **wildflower planting**
37. Working successfully with partner organisations to finalise design/approval of **refurbishment of Glassmill Pond** to benefit of biodiversity and heritage.
38. planting c. **50 new sapling trees**, including an orchard, and installation of **new litter bins**
39. **Halloween Fiesta** celebrating new play park equipment and re-surfacing of the sports surfaces.
40. Organising a stall for the **Morden Family Funday** with a photographic display and our AGM and getting speakers to it !
41. **Litter picking** group, **gardening** group
42. Renovation of heritage **wrought iron canal railings**, community awareness
43. Completion of **biodiversity wall mural** - Grand Opening with Mayor of Brent
44. Developing a **vegetable garden** and selling freshly picked vegetables, honey, jam, chutney, eggs and other produce made at the farm. Developing a **strong, happy and committed team Prof volunteers** to help us fulfil long held ambitions. Achieved a rating of 'Outstanding' in London in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood category.
45. Fundraising. **Shed repairs** and **more benches**.
46. Achievement of a green grant for (FMG) to improve the park and plant trees in 2023.
47. Achievement of a green grant for (FMG) to improve the park and plant trees in 2023.
48. Holding **2 litter picks per month**, the purchase of a **listening bench** and the installation of **two animal carvings**
49. A12 week (24 sessions) **programme for over 55's** based around outdoor/forest school type activities
50. Finding a **noticeboard** constructor
51. Securing a grant from Grow wild (Kew Gardens) so that we could implement our **growing greener together** project. The annual fun day bringing the community to the space to celebrate and engage. Running **family workshops** around foraging, planting and puppet making. Finally getting name change from Central venture park to Kelly Avenue Park formally consulted on.
52. Being over subscribed for school visits reinstated after COVID, **Wildstock 2022, Apple Day**
53. (1) Green Flag award. (2.) Installation of three **multi-finger signposts** in and around park
54. Making sure that the **gardening beds** were well cared for.
55. Planting 5,000 **bulbs, collecting leaves, weeding, spreading mulch**
56. A very full programme in the **1'o clock Club** and a busy year for booking the **football pitches**
57. Two new **bins** and an **outdoor gym**
58. Secured **£13k funding** for playground equipment. Wrote **History of Wood** as fundraising and promotional tool.
59. New Playground. **Running track**. Renovation of derelict buildings begun for a gym and a cafe. Planted trees and shrubs.
60. engaging with other park users
61. **14 Bandstand Concerts**
62. **Deep clean...** removing over 240 sacks of litter plus fly-tipping; Transforming perceptions of the 5Ha site; **Recording over 350 species**; Raising **environmental awareness and local ambition**.
63. New **wildlife pond, choir and candlelit carols** in the snow, new **knitting group**
64. Park a lot cleaner due to monthly **litter picks** and people seeing clean park and using litterbins
65. Gaining **Lottery funding**, mounting major events and **tree planting**
66. Pressing the Council to **clear pennywort** from the lake
67. London in Bloom1. Park of the Year **Gold**. 2.Walled garden **Gold** and category winner. 3. Our Community **Gold**. It's Your Neighbourhood Level 5 Outstanding. RHS Certificate of Excellence
68. Installation of **planters** at the entrance of Crane Park, **Jubilee celebration** at Heathfield recreation Ground, Creation of **Hedgehog holes** around Heathfield recreation ground, **Hedgehog**

- lessons given to Scouts and a local senior school, **carols** event run on a local green to the full park, ran a **log competition** for a new nature park with the local schools
69. We planted a large **shrub, herb, and tree bed** to celebrate our Fields in Trust stone and protection, we **mulched and watered** 400m of hedge, tended a garden and planted more than **3,000 bulbs**.

What improvements did you make to your site in 2022

1. Worked on the following projects: **river restoration** field trial, removing 30metres of concrete bank and creating a new backwater; working with shire horses to **manage 5 meadows**; lobbied successfully for a **new zebra crossing** linking two well used open spaces; continuing our successful **litter** management work - including giving away 20 litter pickers to litter volunteers
2. Spring **bulb planting**.
3. Development of the **Long Border** and **flower beds**; **Tree** planting (over 100 semi mature trees); **Re-purpose old bowling green** as an events space; Build Up project - '**Chill Space**' designed and built by local school children; Developing a **Growing Space**; Improving water quality and **safeguarding wildfowl** in the lakes.
4. Just routing **maintenance** to keep our little park looking nice
5. **Planting** and using the space regularly. Keeping on top of **litter** which is now much reduced. Installing **compost bins** and a garden **bench**.
6. Installation of new **bench**, clearance of embankment at **lake** and invasion weeds from **pond**
7. Wetlands **invasive vegetation** management, **woodland path** maintenance,
8. Installed **wildlife information boards** throughout the park. Commenced work on a **sensory area** in the wildlife garden
9. Planting of a variety of 12 donated blossom **trees** around the park. **Planting** of hundreds of donated plants and **bulbs** in and around the walled garden.
10. New **display panels** in the refurbished playground to link to the main park **history** exhibition
11. Regular weeding and planting of **Bee and Butterfly Garden** we created in 2021; **maintenance** of community orchard and herb planters; successful campaign for council to re-pave a path with **cycle lane**
12. We have **fixed** and raised all of our **beds** and improved our **paths** with funding from the Cleaner Greener Safer Fund - which makes the allotment a much safer and easier place to work.
13. Our much praised **flower beds**. We aim always to be **bee** and **wildlife** friendly.
14. 13 young **trees**, new **perennial planting**, thinning **hedges**, playground
15. Enhanced an area that was neglected and increased **biodiversity** in the park
16. Several new **historical information signs** were added throughout the park. An old **rose bed** was renovated and now is populated with herbaceous perennials, and new roses to be added later this year.
17. Developed a **Management Plan** which hopefully will lead to Green Flag status
18. 100 semi mature **trees planted** and 3,000 **whips**, working alongside the Common's manager and contractors; getting **recycling bins** and recycling introduced
19. New **access gate**, repainted tools container, laid live **hedge** round picnic area
20. we have **cleared** some overgrown shrub borders, and co-ordinated a community impact day that refurbished two **benches** and repainted the **park gates**
21. **Pruned** lots of neglected shrubs and bushes, **weeding** and **mulching**, **planting** of many perennials, planting of 2,000 spring **bulbs**
22. Installed sleeper **benches** and laying a live **hedge**
23. Walled Gardens: **maintenance** of each bed assigned to a volunteer, so improvements everywhere! First phase of planting in the **Long Borders** and creation of **mounds** in the Glade.
24. Not applicable – the build will take place in 2023
25. **Planted** 2 apricot **trees** donated by Abundance, a mimosa tree to commemorate the Queens Jubilee, donated by the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association. A propagated oak sapling

- donated by the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Planted 400 spring **bulbs** donated by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.
26. We meet regularly with the Parks Service to **co-manage** the park and oversee all maintenance and improvements. During the year improvements included some work to **paths** and **benches**, some further **fruit tree planting**, the **Clouds interpretation board**, and the installation of the **Weather Station**.
 27. Creation of **Food Forest**. Provision of **temporary toilet** over summer.
 28. Worked closely with the Council and Cafe to make the park as friendly and tidy as possible, with regular **litter** picks. Establishing a **copse** of 30 mature trees.
 29. More organised community use, eg **dog walking club**.
 30. Added a Bay **Tree** - Planted 400 **Bulbs**
 31. **Thinned out** saplings and removed holly to allow light to Forest floor. **Repaired eroded steps** to maintain access
 32. **Bulb** planting. **Litter** picking. Liaising with the Council to address urgent issues.
 33. Created a **stumpery**. **Woodchipped** a path. Planted 1,000 **bulbs** plus won a bid for 400 more. Did **maintenance** work on newly planted whips, **weeded**, **mulch** etc
 34. Planting of over **1000 tree saplings** and **2000 bulbs**
 35. Working with the local Council, we have had several **trees pruned** and deadwood removed. This has much improved safety for park users. We also successfully petitioned the Council to **repair four rotting pergolas**, with the result that all timbers have been replaced.
 36. Better **paths** and **planting** preparations
 37. Worked with parks contractor on a **SINC** site in one of our parks.
 38. See above
 39. As above, we have also planted a new **hedgerow** from the community tree packs as provided by TCV and funded by the Mayor.
 40. Our usual **daffodil** planting in new locations and seeing the results of some **tulip** planting
 41. None in particular
 42. **Bulb** planting, **path edging**, social media presence, involvement of new partners
 43. More **bulbs**, keeping sapling fruit **trees** through summer **drought**
 44. We planted thousands of **trees** and managed a tree **nursery** that provided trees to other sites in the borough. We maintained and laid living **hedges** and opened up an area that had previously been overgrown and a magnet for **fly tipping**. The area, known as Rohais, now has a **pathway** with public **access** and is planted with a variety of **native species**.
 45. Continued **restoration** of this **historic** but overgrown 10-acre park. Award winning **Rose Gardens**
 46. Every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30 clearing **weeds**, planting **daffodils** in the verges, picking **litter**
 47. Every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30 clearing weeds, planting daffodils in the verges, picking litter
 48. Installation of two **animal carvings**
 49. Planted new **hedgerow** around the perimeter of the whole site plus various internal **planting**
 50. **Coppicing** and ride widening as well as **bulb** planting
 51. Planted **wildflowers** across slope area near slide, with partnership with other groups planted 22 **fruit bushes** as a fence for the "growing area", painted the wooden **benches** to add colour and encourage people into the park. Linked up with local **schools** to encourage volunteering.
 52. Re-modeled one of our many **ponds**
 53. Freshwater grant for **MUGA reconditioning**; orchard **gardening/mulching**; enabled park **notice board**
 54. **Weeding!**
 55. The Russell Square Commissioners installed 3 **chess tables** for out-door games
 56. Enlisting an **apprentice** grounds person and seeing far more residents/visitors to our park
 57. Cleaner and better facilities

58. **Maintained** and gardened various areas of wood. Tackled **grafitti** on regular basis. **Litter** picking.
59. BLANK
60. none
61. **Bulb** Planting / supporting the **Toilet** Project
62. Deep clean; cleared **paths**; managing **scrub** encroachment.
63. New **wildlife pond** and **information** board, **herbs** project extended with more raised beds and veg trugs, new **humpback mounds** for kids on bikes.
64. Improvement held back to 2023 due to supply
65. **Avenue of trees** to screen area from busy road, specimen climate resistant trees planted elsewhere in park, more **meadow planting** and **no mow** areas.
66. Installation of a **memorial bench**
67. Planted a **flower bed** to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with a tree. **Wildflower** meadow addition of more **seating**
68. **Hedgehog gaps** in fences and removal of 20+ bags of **rubbish** from a new nature park attached to the recreation ground
69. **Planting** and **maintenance** of beds and shrubs

Did you hold any community events to encourage people into the site, and if so, what did you do?

1. Nine **volunteer days** and 12 **walks and talks** introducing local people to the open spaces
2. Yes - large spring **bulb planting** (about 40 people of all ages); smaller spring bulb planting with the Good Gym.
3. Events Programme, over **30 community events** with footfall of over 10,000 people.
4. No
5. Yes. **Coffee and chat meet-ups; composting workshop**; two large events **Queen's Jubilee Tea Party, Grand Opening** attended by the Mayor; **plant swaps** and **family planting events**.
6. **Classical concerts** by lake. **Tree planting** by local U3a group
7. **Rivers week, Wetland day, Wetlands tours, Halloween family spooky walk. Santa's grotto, self-led tours for families**
8. Our regular **litterpicks** with occasional **food bank collection** held on a monthly basis. We also work with local **schools** so that the children get to know about the park
9. Annual **Kids' Fun Fair** Day attracts up to 1000 visitors during the course of the day. Took part in **Open City Day**, conducting **tours** around the **historic** features of the park. Quarterly **litter picks** attract around 25 volunteers each session.
10. **Community fairs, wildlife observing, 'Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile', 'Park in the Dark'**. Most events attracted up to 250 participates
11. **Family Fun Day; Landscape Artist competition**
12. Our activities are open to any families with **early years** children and **volunteers** all year round, we didn't hold a specific event.
13. We hold a **picnic** every summer. Also we advertise our weekly **volunteers sessions** in the gardens.
14. Local people helped with all of these and we held a **plant sale, bike repairs day** and a **community funday**
15. **Easter egg hunt/ fun day / Punch and Judy show / apple day**
16. **Litter picking** events were held, and **bulb planting** event in November 2022
17. **Health and wellbeing festival; Age concern walk; Brownie pack badge**
18. We hold regular **nature-based and heritage walks and talks, litter picks** and encouraged the management company to run monthly **volunteer sessions**, all to encourage an appreciation of what the Common has to offer and its importance; a **volunteers 'thank you' event**
19. **AGM, Wildflower and butterfly walks, small mammal survey**, etc.

20. Annual walks inc **Tree, Bat and Spring walks, Pride Picnic, Music, Paws dog show** and **Carols in the park** are free to attend events where we have stalls inc homemade tea and cake stalls , regular community **volunteering sessions** inc gardening and litter picking, ParkBathe mindfulness **walks** in the park
21. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee event:** open doors to our pocket park, public engagements incl flyers
22. Yes **eight public open days** and **two school invited days**
23. **Bunnies in the Beds** at Easter, **May Plant Sale** and **Community Day**, and **Horn Fair** in October. The events attracted large number of visitors/families and raised significant funds for the gardens.
24. Monthly **litter pick**
25. Invited families along to help plant the **bulbs**
26. As set out above we organised a range of community events, including a **wassail** and **apple day** in the orchard, our annual **Flower and Produce Show**, and a Luke Howard 250th Anniversary **'Clouds Appreciation' event**. We helped the **Shell Performing Arts Collective** hold a re-launch event. We helped with the development and successful launch of a weekly **ParkRun**. There's lots of other smaller events we organised or took part in, and others we support (like the 7 **weekly walking groups**, and the many community **activities daily** at the Lordship Hub building. There's also a **monthly outdoor 'trove' market** with a range of **kids activities**.
27. **Launch of Food Forest**. Brixton Chamber **Orchestra concert**. **Bulb planting** event. Regular **litter picking** each month.
28. Yes, **artist competitions**, **'Love Your Park' day**, running a **dawn chorus walk, bat walk** and introducing a **new tree trail** with accompanying leaflet.
29. **Dog walking group** Sunday mornings
30. **Easter Event, Tree Watering Event Festival Tree Day**
31. Not this year
32. **Art in the Park** is an annual event which brings a lot of people into the park & provides an opportunity to take part in a range of art & craft activities.
33. No but got some park users to help with **woodchip spreading**
34. Yes. Monthly **nature walks, Bat Walk, Storytelling in the Park, Litter Picking, Weekly Volunteering Days, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Bronze & Silver**
35. We were able to hold our popular annual Easter Egg Hunt, the first since the pandemic. During the school summer holidays we arranged for **inflatables days** each week, which again proved to be very popular, and at **Halloween** we tried **pumpkin carving** for children for the first time.
36. Only **work sessions** for volunteers
37. Online **customer survey** in support of planned major playground upgrade.
38. Not organised specifically by the friends group but the AAA charity uses the space as does the local Muslim community for Eid al-Adha celebrations
39. **Sports Day** is a popular fixture in the park, with a variety Sports on offer. **Maths Explorers** was an addition in 2022.
40. We didn't organise any ourselves but took part in others
41. Not necessary, very popular park
42. Litter picking, planting, weeding, painting, chatting, tree dressing ceremony, **Armistice Day ceremony, Christian blessing**
43. **Painting of wall mural** with Positive Arts and pupils of Uxendon Manor Primary school.
44. The Friends held Ealing's first ever **Festival of Nature**, which attracted upwards of 1000 people throughout the day. We held nature **walks and talks**, quizzes and trails, wildlife and natural **history** related information stands, a grand raffle. Plus **live music**, and delicious refreshments. At the beginning of October, we held our annual **Apple Day** where the community is invited to celebrate the orchard harvest with music, dance and apple related activities. Once more lots of lovely food and our volunteers baked cakes to raise money for farm improvements.

45. **Tea Parties** in the Park every Wednesday -for everyone. These continued in a local Cafe in the Winter.
46. Having **coffee morning**, fund raising and **training** for volunteers.
47. Having coffee morning, fund raising and training for volunteers.
48. 2 monthly **litter picks**
49. End of Summer **open day** and a **Halloween/Samhain event** both of which included cooking on an open fire and crafting activities, ending in an impromptu singsong around the fire!
50. Free **history and nature walks**
51. Yes we have a monthly **garden gathering**, we held **family orientated workshops**, we had an **annual fun day**, we held a **spruce up for spring** event.
52. **Wildstock** music festival, **Apple Day**
53. Summer event with **dog olympics** and cake stall.
54. We recruited some local residents to assist with gardening and weeding
55. An **AGM** was supported by approximately 40 individuals
56. None, due to lack of funding
57. We worked with a local action group to host a community **apple day** in the park's orchard
58. **History Walks, Apple pressing day, seed swap, willow wreathmaking.**
59. Small **fete**.
60. our **Apple Day** event in October
- 61. Jubilee Party**
62. Regular **weekend sessions**; online public **consultation meetings**;
63. **Wassail, Jubilee picnic, Knit in public day, Apple Day, carol concert.** Plus council-led events, workshops, tours and classes
64. A **fun day** with Thames 21 including testing Watertown quality
65. Major events - **Queens Jubilee, Folk in the Park.** Cultural events - **Landscape Artist of the Year, children's activities, Refugee Picnic, art workshops**, all with an environmental aspect
66. No
67. **Jubilee Picnic**, Plant, craft and second hand book **sales. Tree Dressing** in November. Plans for a Classic Car Rally were cancelled owing to the passing of our Queen
68. **Jubilee party** with music, **logo competition** for a new nature park
69. We hosted a **cake sale** and raised money for the group and spread awareness about our work.

What challenges did you encounter in 2022?

1. BLANK
2. Need for **bank account**. People are willing to plant but have little **time** for organisational roles.
3. The effect on the park of the long-term reduction in **local authority funding** and the need for volunteers to pick up the work.
4. The **hot weather**, from which the park has now recovered
5. **Hot weather** in the summer to keep newly planted shrubs alive. We organised watering rotas with local residents.
6. Identification Oak Processionary Moth nests and keeping saplings watered
7. Covid, Brexit, materials and changing to the Building control for improvements for climate change all effected the cost of our proposed building for the blue green space. **Costs have more than doubled**
8. Very minor, **low-level vandalism**. The local council can be **slow to respond** to issues at times.
9. Trying to improve **communications** with various council departments.
10. The **summer heat** and **autumn rains** impacted on a number of events which had to be re-scheduled
11. Two **traveller incursions; flooding; flytipping** in Greenshaw woods; **Arson** in RHPE - bench incinerated

12. **Funding** - the funding we received was amazing but arrived so late in the growing season that we struggled to get going. We were unable to secure any funding for 2023 and are unsure how we will continue our groups.
13. The very **dry weather!** Having to change a little our yearly planting schemes to cope either **extreme weather** conditions
14. **Getting new and young committee members**
15. Getting **volunteers** was the biggest challenge
16. Our biggest challenge was the **heat and drought** of the long summer 2022. We lost a couple of plants and saved many thanks to the effort of several volunteers during the year.
17. **Drought**
18. Our membership continues to grow, bringing huge **administrative challenges** and the need to motivate more **volunteers** to help us address them; **coping with the slowly turning wheels of bureaucracy in the greenspaces management!**
19. **Litter, dry summer, muddy winter**
20. With **no direct water sources in the park**, watering the plants and trees was really challenging
21. **Heat and drought**
22. More public engagement such as conservation workdays
23. The House is run by a Trust, which has very little **money** for the gardens. The Volunteers were set up just for the Walled Gardens but have now stepped in to cover the wider estate. The other challenge was during the prolonged **drought, keeping volunteers engaged** when all they were doing was watering!
24. **Funding**, council **bureaucracy**, disruption of council elections.
25. Trying to keep the plants alive in the **hot weather**, with **no on-site water supply** this proved very difficult carrying water from nearby houses.
26. Although we have 1400 members, and around 30 volunteers, we need to **expand and diversify** (by age and background) those actively involved in helping coordinate things eg attending the Friends monthly open coordination meetings. We also promote the development of other specialist user groups (around 20 such groups at the moment), and some of these could be stronger and **more self-sufficient**.
27. **Engaging more people** in support. Dealing with **litter** and **lack of toilet facilities**.
28. Never enough **money** available - we would like to install more disabled parking spaces. Also, we always need **more people** to be active and get involved. It's always a challenge, but a very good year overall.
29. **Council resistance** to our vision and requests to halt process to take away greenbelt status
30. **Vandalism; graffiti; flytipping; poor weather** so made a loss at the Festival
31. **Attracting new, regular volunteers**
32. **Litter** in the park, insufficient maintenance.
33. Change of Chair. **Reorganisation** of committee. Small acts of **vandalism**
34. Retention of **volunteers**
35. The extremely **hot weather** and **drought** were challenging. We lost some shrubs, but most plants have now recovered.
36. Agreeing next steps
37. Threats due to **proposed major developments** adjacent to two of our parks.
38. Inability to secure **funding** to refurbish the playground
39. Blakedown the contractor for the courts surfaces were **slow in delivery**, in contrast to Kompan who manufacture and install the play equipment who did this 2 weeks in advance of October half term.
40. Getting an available **venue for our AGM** on a day when speakers were also available. Also the challenge of **communicating with council officers** to get answers.
41. **Getting people to engage** with the Friends
42. **Community loneliness, bureaucracy** of funding

43. **Hot dry summer with drought conditions - high water bills!!**
44. Trying to **encourage volunteers** to take on the less appealing roles that make a Friends group work e.g. **finance and governance**.
45. **Political and legal challenges** from local busybodies who want to kill us off.
46. **COVID restrictions**, lacking **funding** for activity, jobs for volunteers, financial support for, health and mental issues. **People**
47. COVID restrictions, lacking funding for activity, jobs for volunteers, financial support for, health and mental issues. **people**
48. Lack of resources in terms of **people/volunteers**
49. **Bringing together other local service** providers to "network" and make the world smaller! This has planted seeds for joint activities in 2023!
50. **Drop in volunteer numbers** post COVID
51. Key **volunteers** were injured which then slowed down some projects
52. **Drought** due to the very **hot weather**, which our rainwater recycling investment proved its worth
53. Recruiting **new committee members**
54. We enjoyed working with local residents
55. The **dry weather** killed some of the shrubs which will need replacements. We will help to establish new areas for shrubs.
56. **Encouraging people back into the park** following Covid and trying to **enlist the help of the council** to fund toilets and lighting in the park, without success
57. **Getting the council to up their rubbish collections / cleaning**
58. **Flooding** issues - ongoing
59. Lack of **volunteers**. Lack of help from green spaces contractors due to lack of **money**.
60. Petty **vandalism**
61. The **Mayor doesn't reply to us** - but did agree the Toilet Project
62. Severe **drought** - followed by **grassland fire** (1.25Ha of grassland/scrub - approx 1/4 of site)
63. **Drought and floods!** Also **footfall damage to woodland undergrowth** and **irresponsible dog owners** with unruly dogs, leaving mess, damaging flowerbeds etc.
64. A **dumped motorcycle** in our lake. Large amounts of **stale bread being left on the park**, getting **quick responses from parks managers** due to not being in the office or not doing a full five days
65. The **weather!** Volunteers worked really hard to keep new planting watered
66. A **constant battle against fly-tipping and litter**
67. Extremes of **weather** conditions, local authority **cut-backs**
68. Local **council reluctant to grant permission** for rewilding green areas, stopped much of our work
69. Climate change caused dry **weather** conditions which required us to water trees, beds and hedges during extreme heat, a particular challenge because we **don't have a water source** in the park.



The countryside charity
London

**GO PARKS
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LFGN
London
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Network 

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