

Chair's Report: Period covered January 2022- January 2023.

This is the third annual report about the activities of the Friends group, a year during which COVID restrictions were released and a sense of normality gradually returned. The events were documented on the Friends blog (perivalepark.london), with links to individual items provided below in the form e.g. <https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22994>

1. The third park summer event organised by the Friends occurred on September 25th and consisted of a better-than-ever dog Olympics, a home-make cake stall with irresistible cakes provided by Café Berry from Pitshanger park and a face painting stall for all ages. [22994](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22994)
2. The red 2020 edition of the Friends badge was updated last year with a 2021 edition in a fetching green and for 2022 the collection is complete with a yellow version.
3. In January we heard that Perivale Park had been selected as the inaugural Ealing Park of the Month [22346](https://www.ealingparks.foundation/list-of-parks) The first twelve parks of the month can be found at www.ealingparks.foundation/list-of-parks and many of them are close to Perivale Park; quite a cluster and all very different! Why not visit them all!
4. In March, a key to the main park noticeboard arrived and the contents have been regularly updated since. [22467](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22467)
5. Also in March, the spring bulbs provided by Bulbs-for-London *via* a grant to Richard Spencer-Smith and planted in the raised beds earlier in December, put on a magnificent display which lasted around two months. [22478](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22478)
6. In April, a bat watching event was organised by the Ealing Wildlife group in the park, and two particularly prime locations were identified. In one, at least six bats of two different species circled above our heads. [22549](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22549)
7. We received two emails from Caroline telling of her childhood growing up near the park in the 1960s and her evocative story can be found at [22521](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22521)
8. In April, the footpath next to the Kid's playground, which had been very prone to flooding, was repaired after some urging from the Friends. [22491](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22491)
9. In June we had our regular spring clean of the weeds in the orchard garden to prepare it for what turned out to be a magnificent display of flowers. [22770](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22770) The Geranium Rozanne have naturalised particularly well. [22980](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22980)
10. Also in June the park contributed to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a new Walnut tree, planted as part of the Green Canopy. [22695](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22695)
11. The Pocket-park project celebrated its third birthday in June, and we were delighted to see that the 24 fruit trees in the orchard area were all alive and well, as was the avenue of ten Crab Apple trees, which always put on a good spring blossom display. [22743](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22743)
12. In June, the flower meadow next to the Tennis and MUGA courts was seeded with a winter bird food survival mix comprising ten different species and from August on it produced its own style of spectacular flower display with a profusion of yellow and white flowers. [22721](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22721)
13. In July the Ealing Wildlife group organised a nature walk in the park led by Neil Anderson to look for dragonflies and damselflies. [22853](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22853)
14. In July, we heard that the Park had been awarded the coveted Green Flag award. It took a few months to organise the flagpole and flag, and this was raised in a ceremony later in the year (see below). [22847](https://www.perivalepark.london/archives/22847)



15. The unusually hot summer had already resulted in many trees dropping their leaves as a self-preservation measure. The orchard, which was regularly watered in August, proceeded to have a new spring flowering with copious blossom and eventually (small) fruits in October. [22866](#)
16. In September we heard that a Friends funding raising project with the Freshwater Foundation had been successful and this enabled us to get the completely faded five-a-side and basketball markings in the MUGA court replaced by a new set. [22936](#)
17. In October, also as part of the Freshwater grant, we held a football five-a-side training session, provided by the Brentford FC Community sports trust. [23084](#)
18. In October, a small band of volunteers came together to help to start to restore the Costons brook area to health, following years of neglect of this important little waterway in the park. [23046](#)
19. An exciting new feature in the ponds area close to the kid's playground was installed; you can now travel between the ponds using the new stepping-stones.
20. As promised in the 2022 report, new finger post signs have now been installed in the centre of the park and at two entrances to the park to entice passers-by into the wonderful facilities to be found. [23126](#)
21. In November, the Green Flag awarded to the park was raised by the local MP, James Murray, following by a stroll along Costons Brook and then a visit to the new fingerpost. [23120](#)
22. In November, our now regular supply of mulch provided by Ealing parks was used to prepare our still-flowering roses for the winter and next year. Shortly after the mound of mulch was used up, a new supply for next year magically appeared! [23185](#)
23. In July 2022, the Perivale Park blog (<https://www.perivalepark.london>) celebrated its 5th birthday and to date, it has carried a total of 307 posts, of which the 59 published in 2022 had attracted 6400 views. During its lifetime, the site has accumulated 28,363 views by 16,171 visitors who have contributed 207 comments. Unlike e.g. Facebook, you do not have to be a member to view the posts or to make (moderated) comments. New contributors-contributions-comments are very welcome; contact friends@perivalepark.london
24. In January 2023, the Friends attended a half day meeting organised by the Freshwater foundation to participate in talks on management basics and networking, at which many useful new contacts were made and information acquired.
25. In February 2023, the Friends attended an evening meeting organised by GoParks to bring together Friends groups from around the London area to exchange ideas.
26. Around 50 photos of the park and its surroundings in fifteen locations have been uploaded to Google Maps by the Friends. A total of >895,328 world-wide views have accrued to date, including >80,000 for the pond areas and >320,000 for the orchard garden.

