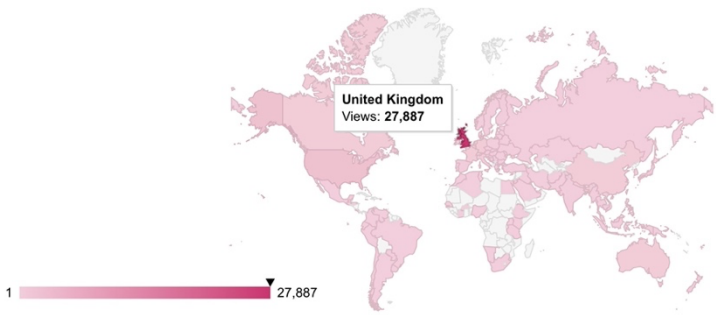
Friends of Perivale Park. Annual General meeting, 5th March, 2024, 19.30.

Chair's Report: Period covered February 2023- February 2024.

This is the fourth annual report about the activities of the Friends group. Many 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/23246

1. The major event to be organised was a summer party to be held on the weekend of June 24, as part of the wider London event sponsored by the Mayor of London. A funding application was prepared in April but was not successful. The more ambitious scale of the event, together with the increased cost of paying the park licence fee and accompanying public liability insurance and a lack of supporting grants meant we ultimately decided not to hold the event.
2. Throughout the year, volunteers have removed litter from the park and especially after Cricket matches during the summer months when there continues to be a problem.
3. Throughout the year, the **Freshwater Foundation** has continued to send the Friends much appreciated and useful information they continuously collate, such as their Networking & Cooperation Directory.
4. We have attended two events organised by the **Ealing Parks Foundation**, where we met other groups and discussed potential projects and priorities for the future.
5. We continue to periodically receive sports related useful information from the **Brentford FC Community Sports Trust**.
6. The contents of the main park noticeboard have been updated by volunteers throughout 2023.
7. In February we welcomed a new park bench, unexpectedly installed overlooking the Cowgate road ponds area. We have asked for more such! 23246
8. In February, the Chair attended a meeting of **Greenford Connect** to help network with other community groups in the Ealing area. Several useful contacts were established.
9. In June, the Chair toured the local **Litten Nature reserve** by invitation, establishing a useful and continuing contact with their Friends group. 23390
10. In June, we joined forces with **LAGER CAN** to clear some heavy waste from the park fly-tipped in the orchard area. Heavy (1.2 kg) nitrous oxide cannisters are also an increasing problem. The **LoveCleanStreets** app continues to be used.
11. The **Pocket-park**/Orchard project celebrated its fourth birthday in June 2023 and we were delighted to see that assiduous and continuous summer watering of the area by volunteers has meant that the 24 fruit trees in the orchard area are still all alive and well, as is the avenue of ten Crab Apple trees which always put on a good spring blossom display.
12. In July, we participated in a general nature walk organised by the **Ealing Wildlife Group** around the park and led by **Neil Anderson**, the highlight of which was the observation of six different species of birds of prey. 23487
13. In July, the large central meadow adjacent to the Tennis and MUGA courts was rotavated and seeded with a perennial seed mix, including at our request lovely blue Flax. 23543
14. In September, the Friends joined another local Friends group at **Horsenden Grape and Honey farm** on two occasions to tread the (first white, then red) grapes, something unusual enough in London to have featured on the local TV news. We hope this will become an annual event. 23560
15. In September, we heard about the proposal by Ealing Council to create a regional park in West London, of which Perivale Park would be part of and the proposed associated closure of the park golf course in 2024. We were invited as stakeholders to make our views known to about these proposals by an invitation to speak at a council meeting discussing the proposals. We warmly endorsed the concept of a regional park, but also expressed concerns about possible closure or loss of amenities associated with the StayingActive centre and the golf club and café. We will be attending the meeting scheduled for March 12th 2024 to discuss the project. 23599

16. In October, volunteers contributed and planted about 15 kg of new bulbs and other plants in the orchard raised beds, preparing for what we expect to be a magnificent spring show. 23799
17. In October, volunteers cleared a popular footpath close to the bridge over Coston's Brook which had become overgrown with brambles, making it walkable again. 23715
18. In November, the Chair was invited to attend an open meeting organised by Ealing Council, where new plans for rebuilding the nearby Gurnell leisure centre were presented. We noted that the aim was to open the new centre by 2027. We anticipate playing a role in the consultations due to take place in 2024. 23715
19. In November, we heard that the original award of a Green Flag to the park in 2022 had been renewed for 2023-2024 (and the new flag was raised in January 2024). 23785
20. In December, an ad-hoc storage area on the sports field close to Cowgate road which had been used for several years to store park materials was cleared by Ealing Parks and the area has now been planted with flowers, which we hope will create a significant visual impact for walkers along the Capital ring. 23727
21. In December-February, volunteers carried out gardening maintenance in the orchard flower beds to prepare for next season's growth. 23692
22. In January, Ealing Parks invited the Friends to suggest works we would like **GEL** to help with in the community area, to be undertaken before April 2024. A list of items, both in this area and the wider park, relating to path and orchard maintenance were submitted and discussions are now under way.
23. In January, the Friends joined a local project organised by **CURB** (Clean-Up-River Brent) and **Thames21** to help identify the course of local streams by injecting dye. We have agreed to help with more such studies in 2024,focussing on Coston's Brook, which runs through the park and as it happens also through the new beaver reserve. 23774
24. In February, we visited the **Hanwell community centre** and established good community contacts there.
25. In July 2023, the Perivale Park blog (https://www.perivalepark.london) celebrated its 6th birthday and to date in February 2024, it has carried a total of 353 community posts, of which 49 were posted in the report period and which attracted 4846 views and 2901 visitors during that year. During its lifetime, the site has accumulated **33,360** views by **15399** visitors from **116** countries, who have also contributed **249** comments. New contributors-comments are very welcome; contact friends@perivalepark.london



26. Some **55** photos of the park and its surroundings in fifteen locations have now been uploaded to Google Maps by the Friends, resulting in >**1,060,303** world-wide views to date.
27. The locations of 14 features in the park have now been added to Google maps. Google regularly notifies us of their impact (e.g. "Perivale Park Green Flag Award, which has now been seen over 500 times") 23766

Henry Rzepa (Chair), 20th February, 2024.