

Friends of Wollaton Park

Members Newsletter / May 2024

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We are thrilled to launch the inaugural edition of the Friends of Wollaton Park members newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to keep you, our dedicated members, informed about all things Wollaton Park, from upcoming events and volunteer opportunities to conservation efforts and exciting new developments.

As a Friend of Wollaton Park, you play a vital role in supporting this historic green space. Your membership helps us preserve Wollaton Hall and Deer Park's natural beauty and rich heritage for future generations.

Volunteering Update

The Saturday Volunteering got 2024 off to an amazing start, with 14 people building a Dead-Hedge on Digby Avenue. This was followed by a session to apply compost and bark chippings in the formal garden, assisting the regular Wednesday group. **Saturday sessions will now progress on a regular slot of the 3rd Saturday of the month.**



The February litter picking session had an amazing 27 volunteers.



Activities in the Hall saw volunteers clean the Prospect room, Tudor Kitchens, and handrails on the roof.

More details of all these activities can be found in the News / Blog section of our website.



Volunteering Opportunities

Our activities are all run by volunteers. We need your help...

- Walled Garden (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Formal Garden (Wednesdays)
- Hall and Park Tasks (Ad-hoc Fridays. Members only)
- Conservation Tasks (3rd Saturday of the month)
- Litter Picking (Last Saturday of the month)



Email:
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<https://friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk/>



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News from the FoWP Committee

Everyone is probably aware of the financial situation of Nottingham City Council. We are in regular contact with the Hall and Park management, as well as local councillors to engage in consultations on how the finances will impact the park. We recently provided feedback to the open consultation on finances opposing any changes that would restrict access to this vital green space, highlighting that Wollaton Park offers a free "green gym" for everyone, promoting physical activity and mental well-being. Our response also reminded the council of the need to support volunteer activities that assist park staff in the upkeep and maintenance of the park, so we can continue working together to keep Wollaton Park a healthy and vibrant community hub!

Our sources inform us that the sale of the Hall/Park is not on the agenda.



The Wollaton Walled Garden Project (see the team in the photo above) has applied for outline planning permission to restore the Bothies behind the North wall. Recent volunteering activity has seen them cleared of debris and propped up to prevent collapse as surveys are undertaken.



This year the Walled Garden Team will also be working on the development of a sensory garden, in the area shown above.

Wollaton Walled Garden Project

The Walled Garden held a successful Spring Fair on April 20th /21st, giving visitors the opportunity to explore and enjoy the successes of the restoration project. A huge thank you to everyone that supported the activity.

Further open days are planned, including during the Wollaton Community Festival on July 5th.

Regular tours of the Walled Garden now take place on Thursdays – book with the Wollaton Hall website:
<https://wollatonhall.org.uk/walled-garden-tours/>

Shinrin-yoku (Forest Bathing) Walk

On Friday 5th July FoWP at 10-12, FoWP will be supporting the Wollaton Community Festival with a Shinrin-yoku (Forest Bathing) walk for FoWP Members. Booking required for the walk, email us to reserve a space.



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Ornamental Pond

The pond in the formal garden is no longer operational. FoWP are in discussion with the Parks team about the feasibility of restoring it.



Can you help? *Do you have experience of crowd-sourced fundraising or have other fund-raising ideas.* If so, please get in touch with us. We will also need a project manager. Please can you help?



Organ



With help from FoWP, funds have been raised to get the Organ in the Hall re-tuned. There are now regular recitals using the Organ on the first Saturday of the month (except July).

We are also hoping to arrange a recital at the FoWP AGM in September.

We Need You...

FoWP is run and organised by a small, dedicated group of individuals. We meet at 6PM on the first Wednesday of the month, with representatives of the park management as well as the local councillors.

- Please can you help us with social media – we need someone to set up and run an Instagram channel for us.
- We need a University / Student representative to open communication with this vital group of potential volunteers. Please can you help?



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Donations – PayPal

By donating to the Friends of Wollaton Park, you can help to support conservation activities in the park, which ensure that the park remains a beautiful and healthy place for people to enjoy. Your donation will also help to provide volunteer opportunities, which give people the chance to connect with nature, learn new skills, and give back to their community.

We can now accept donations and membership payments online. The simplest method is to point your phone camera at this QR code, which will take you to a PayPal page to donate now.



Alternatively, you can now go to the “Donate” page on the FoWP website and click the donate button – like the one below.



The Friends of Wollaton Park is a not-for-profit organisation that HMRC has recognised as a charitable company, allowing FoWP to reclaim 25% of the donation amount from HMRC under the Gift Aid scheme.

If you love Wollaton Park and want to help ensure that it is preserved for future generations, please consider donating to the Friends of Wollaton Park. Your donation will make a difference!

Litter Picking Sponsorship



On the last Saturday of the month, volunteers get together for a litter-pick. In April we received new equipment courtesy of **LANDMARK – The Quality Landscape Company**.

Mark Dewick who is the owner of Landmark and regularly comes to the monthly litter-pick at Wollaton Hall & Deer Park along with his wife Lisa. As a committed volunteer he realised that the equipment available were not adequate - we now have new hi-vis waistcoats with ‘Friends of Wollaton Park’ logo and Volunteer printed, litter-picker sticks, clear bags, bag holder, all stored in an excellent case thereby making it easier to carry our monthly litter-pick activity.

FoWP Contacts

- Chairman: Kevin Beswick
- Secretary: Helen Mitchem
- Website / News: Colin Robbins



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