

Friends of Wollaton Park

Members Newsletter / June 2025

Message from Helen, FoWP Chair

Summer is well and truly here and the park is full of people and festivals. They are a great way to bring new people together and range from car shows to Eid in the park and outdoor cinema. I'd like to highlight the Walled Garden summer festival on 5-6th July, which is taking place as part of the Wollaton Community Festival (at various locations around the village on the Saturday). Please take this chance to come down, explore and enjoy our fabulous green space, bird walks and Tai Chi and meet our friendly team. You never know where we might take you!

Thanks to all, Helen

Park News in Brief



Nottingham
City Council

- The Scaffolding on the North-West side of the hall is expected to be in place until October for window repairs.
- Nottingham City Council has allocated a further £248,000 towards these and other repairs.
- The entrance/exit road by the Playground has been re-tarmaced.

For the latest news stories, see:

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

Walled Garden Planning Permission



There is fantastic news for the Walled Garden bothy restoration! We're thrilled to announce that planning permission has officially been granted, marking a huge step forward for this vital project.

Permission was requested for "Refurbishment and restoration of Wollaton Hall Walled Garden potting sheds and ancillary buildings, including restoration of windows and doors, roofs, all walls and fireplaces and floors."

With this crucial approval in hand, work can now begin in earnest. This is a significant undertaking, and we're incredibly excited about the journey ahead.

Bringing the bothy restoration to life will require a diverse range of skills and a dedicated team of volunteers. Do you have a talent or expertise you could lend? We're eager to hear from anyone who can contribute.

What skills could you offer to support this important work?

The news of the restoration had excellent media coverage, with reports on the BBC website and Notts TV visiting the Garden.



Friends of
WOLLATON PARK

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Website:

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

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Friends of Wollaton Park

Walled Garden Spring Fair



The Walled Garden held a successful spring fair, raising over £4,000 with 1379 visitors.

You could even meet the head gardener!

- **Summer Festival:** Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July
- **Autumn Festival:** Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th October



Tree Nursery

Work on the Tree Nursery has continued, with watering during the dry spring being a big effort, as well as taming the bindweed. Some additional trees were also planted.



Open Meetings

Our May open meeting, held at the 508 Cafe, fostered a wealth of constructive discussion. Members actively engaged on a variety of actionable topics, showcasing the vibrant community spirit within the Friends of Wollaton Park.

Building on the popularity of our recent Tree Walks, an exciting new "Tree Project" was proposed to label significant trees in the park. The committee and the Park team enthusiastically embraced this initiative and are now exploring the options for implementation. This project promises to enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of Wollaton Park's remarkable arboreal heritage.

Unfortunately, the Camellia House recently sustained some damage to its glass roof, leading to a temporary closure. This incident sparked discussions on how we can open this beautiful and historic space more regularly for the public to enjoy. We're actively looking into solutions, and you can find more details on our plans in the article below.

A discussion was held on how to make FoWP more visible in the park, as we are largely anonymous. Suggestions of posters will be taken forward by the committee. Additionally, keep an eye out for our new tri-fold flyers, which are currently in production and will be appearing in various locations across the park in the coming months, making it easier for everyone to learn about our work and how to get involved.

The next open meeting is scheduled for July 2nd in the Camellia House, starting at 6pm. It will be followed by a social gathering, with light refreshments provided.

AGM - Save the Date

Our AGM will be held in Wollaton Hall on Wednesday, September 3rd. The doors will open at 6 pm.

Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Friends of Wollaton Park

Camellia House Opening Hours



We often get asked, "**When is the Camellia House open?**" Currently, it is open on some weekdays and only occasionally on weekends. We're keen to see it open more frequently, especially on weekends, and are discussing this with the Park staff.

To make this a reality, we will need volunteers! Would you be willing to spare a few hours at the Camellia House, perhaps helping hand out FoWP leaflets or sell some of our merchandise? We are considering the possibility of opening one weekend a month for a few hours, and every weekend when the flowers are in bloom.

If you can help, please let us know!

Conservation Tasks



Conservation activities on Saturdays have focused on clearing the dam bank of debris, and clearing Rhododendrons around the lake.



Formal Garden



Progress is being made on the Fountain and Pond restoration project. A firm of architects has been appointed, together with a pond restoration specialist, to produce a fully costed restoration plan.

Together we can...

KEEP NOTTINGHAM CLEAN

'Friends of Wollaton Park'

Would you like to help to keep your Wollaton Hall & Deer Park free of litter?

Come along and join us
SUMMER SUNDAY AFTERNOON
around Wollaton Hall & Deer Park

22nd June
13th July
17th August
21st September

Meet next to the Red Telephone Kiosk at 4pm

Litter pickers, disposable gloves, other tools and bags can be provided.
Please wear suitable clothing including sturdy footwear

What can YOU do?

f /cleangreennottingham @cleangreennotm #keepitclean

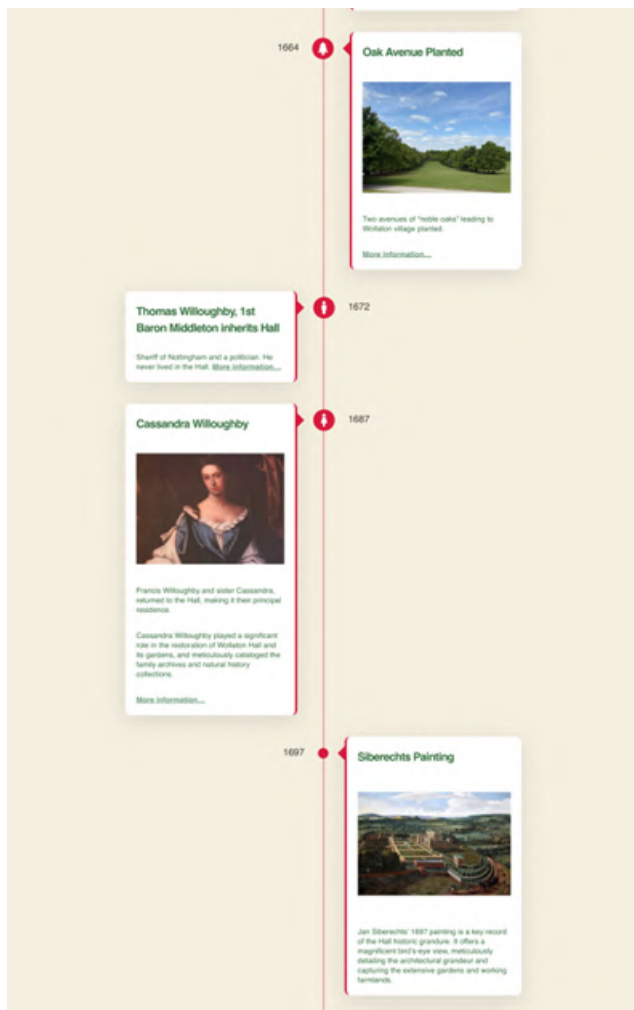
Nottingham City Council

Friends of Wollaton Park

Website Updates

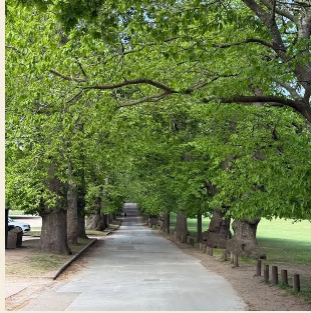
We've made significant updates to our website. Our new pictorial timeline invites you to journey through the key moments in the history of Wollaton Park and Hall, exploring the significant milestones that have made it the landmark it is today.

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



We value your feedback! Should you spot any errors, typos, or omissions in the timeline, please let Colin know.

Tree enthusiasts will delight in our updated Trees pages, now featuring in-depth information about the park's historic avenues. Plus, we've added leaflets for self-guided Oak and Evergreen tree walks.



Hall to Wollaton Village.

Originally planted by Francis Willoughby between 1664 and 1666, described as "Two avenues of 'noble oaks' leading to Wollaton village". The original trees have been replaced, and the avenue now contains a mixture of tree species.

Sweet Chestnut Avenue

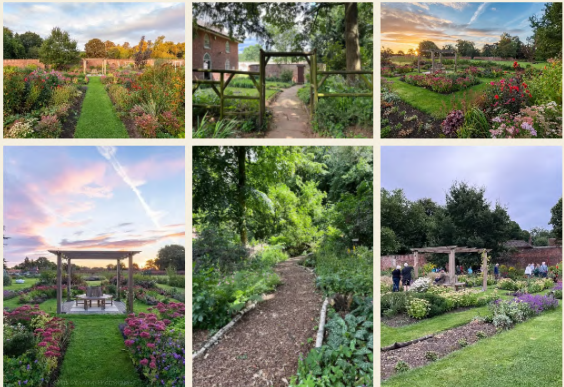
Planted between 1697 and 1720 as two double rows of Sweet Chestnuts. Now two single rows. Most of the trees are replacements; one or two may be original.

A favourite of the Deer in Autumn.



The Walled Garden pages have also been refreshed to focus on options for visiting the gardens and the restoration project.

The Wollaton Walled Garden, sometimes referred to as Wollaton's Secret Garden, is a historic enclosed kitchen garden that once supplied Wollaton Hall.



Photos: Chris Denning and Paul Taylor

The 4-acre garden is now being restored by dedicated volunteers under the banner of the "Wollaton Walled Garden Project". The restoration features vibrant flower beds, a sensory garden, productive vegetable beds, an orchard, a tree nursery, the Head Gardener's Cottage, a Cucumber House, and remnants of glasshouses and conservatories.

Ready to play a part? Our redesigned Volunteers page now makes it easier to understand the various opportunities available across the park and how to apply.

Find your perfect role in the Wollaton Park community!

Friends of Wollaton Park

Volunteer Spotlight: Jane

Ever since our volunteer group was formed, it has attracted people who devote an extraordinary amount of their time, energy and skills into making the park a better place for all to enjoy. However, my volunteer spotlight for this issue is in another league. Jane Baynham is an integral part of developing and nurturing the community of people at the Walled Garden. She is the social beating heart of the group, and she cares for and welcomes everyone she comes into contact with. When I asked Jane about this article, this is what she said.

Kevin.

"I first came to volunteer at Wollaton Walled Garden in February 2019 after seeing an advert in a street noticeboard. I moved to Wollaton in 1986 specifically for access to the park because I've had 3 rescue Border Collies across the years, and spent half my life around the parkland. I lost my last dog, Jack, in late December 2018 and couldn't bear to be in the park without one. When I saw the advert, I thought it would get me back, with a purpose, to the place I'd loved so much. When I first volunteered, the optional tasks were brick cleaning, ivy removal and burning it on bonfires. I've done all three, but mostly bonfires! I believe that to volunteer is to be part of something bigger than yourself, and is so very important for good mental and physical health, as well as forming a community. Community is so crucial for me, I have always concentrated on making our walled garden family central to our activities, celebrating everything baking for breaktimes (the chatter, laughter and jokes are priceless!) so that we're friends, and know each

other's families and friends. I believe it to be a most happy place. This has led me to the idea of our more recent Festival weekends so that we can share our successes with our local community and encourage others to join us. These occasions are

certainly my favourite times, when my volunteer friends come together as one in support. I also love Walled Garden early in the morning on cold, frosty and bright days. The

quiet, out-of-the-way areas of the Park are my chosen places when walking there, as the peacefulness sends my senses into overdrive. I'm also really interested in the history of Wollaton Hall, Park and most importantly, the Walled Garden, which is now hardly recognisable from the way we found it.

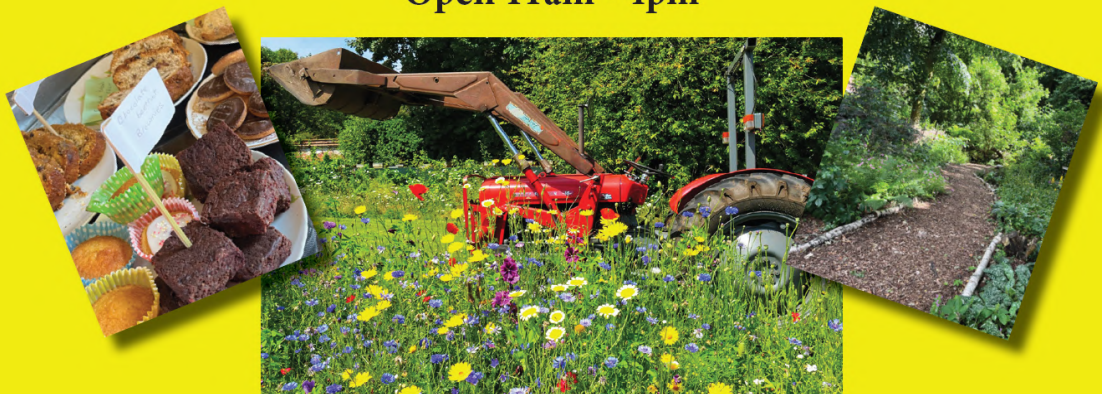
"It's a privilege to be part of such an amazing group of people, gives me an enormous sense of pride that I'm helping to restore such a valuable asset to Wollaton, hopefully for generations to come."



Wollaton Walled Garden - SUMMER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July

Open 11am - 4pm



Entrance fee £1

- Refreshments with home bakes • Book stall • Plant sales •
- Bric-a-brac stall • Local history booklets on sale •

Friends of Wollaton Park

Civic Society Walk



Over 40 people attended the Historic Park walk run jointly by the Civic Society and FoWP.

The 3 hour stroll revealed the park's evolution from a 14th-century Willoughby family estate, acquired for its coal reserves, to the 500-acre public park it is today. Highlights included exploring the park's tree avenues dating back to the 17th century, and visiting the 550 year old Arbour Oak. The walk delved into the park's wartime past, specifically its role as a base for the US Army, later a prisoner-of-war camp (with a little-known memorial by the lake), and the Botanic Gardens role to grow salad vegetables. Architectural points of interest ranged from the iconic 18th-century stable block and the pioneering 1823 Camellia House to the brick-built Wollaton Hall itself, the tour also touched upon the many Grade II listed structures, including the ice houses, Doric, Formal Pond, Gazebo, historic footbridges, Ha-Has, Boat House and the park wall.

Our thanks go to Graham Woodward for arranging the walk, and donating £100 from the proceeds of his walks to FoWP.

FoWPs next walk is currently in planning, probably a lakeside wildlife/tree walk in September.

*Do you have a passion for a specific aspect of the park?
We're looking for volunteers who could lead future walks on topics they love!*

Wollaton Community Festival

Please support the Community Festival on July 5th.

WOLLATON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday 5th July

Venues and Activities:

- 1 = Walled Garden festival all day, Bird Walk, Tai Chi
- 2 = Wollaton Hall £1 entry all day
- 3 = St Leonard's Church belltower explore
- 4 = St Leonard's Centre Family Fun Day 11-3pm
- 5 = The Grounds
- 6 = Royal British Legion Beer Festival 11am - late
- 7 = Scouts activities 12-1.30
- 8 = Explore the Dovecote

A festival for all: come and join in!

Search for our facebook page for more details:

- Enjoy access to the Hall for just £1 per person by saying "community festival" at the door. Alternatively, an annual pass is available for £15, which includes free entry for up to three children.
 - The Walled Garden will be open - £1 per person
 - FoWP Member Saj will be running two bird walks.
- (To register for free email: sajahmad@hotmail.co.uk)

BIRD WALK

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

Meeting Point: Walled Garden Gate
(Inside Wollaton Park main entrance)

Walk 1: 8:00 AM
Walk 2: 10:00 AM

Register now: sajahmad@hotmail.co.uk

Your guides:
Neil and Saj!