

Friends of Wollaton Park

Members Newsletter / August 2025

Message from Helen, FoWP Chair

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter, full of success, engaging events and amazing achievements. As you will see below we have our Annual General Meeting coming up and I invite you to join us in the Hall for this, it's a great way to reflect on our year together and a chance to look forward. I would like to ask you, as a valued member, if you feel there is anything you would like to offer the group, either as a committee member or in one of our volunteering roles or is there someone you know who would enjoy being a new Friend that you could sign up? Please consider all options and I'll end with a quote by Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Thanks to all, Helen

AGM Reminder.

Our Annual General Meeting date is on Wednesday 3rd September and will be taking place in Wollaton Hall at **6.30pm**, with refreshments from **6.00pm** and a chance to catch up with one another. ***Please note the earlier time.***

Nominations are open for committee positions so if you have a skill and would like to share that with us, please do let us know by the end of August.

Treasurer

We are excited to share that an excellent candidate for treasurer has been nominated. We invite you to meet them at the AGM and show your support by voting them into office.

Bat Walk

Following the AGM, we have a talk and a guided walk from the Nottingham Bat Group.

More on the Bats in the park...

<https://friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk/wollaton-park-wildlife/mammals/bats/>

Membership Renewal

As a reminder, membership renewals are due in September, and the fee remains at £5 for another year. Details of payment options are on our website (Online renewal or direct bank transfer).

It would help us, reducing our volunteer admin time, if you set up a standing order or recurring payment.

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



Email:
info@friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk

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

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Friends of Wollaton Park

Open Meetings

The June open meeting in the Camellia house covered a wide range of exciting topics about Wollaton Park!

- **Wollaton's Past:** We heard fascinating stories about the park's history from former employee Frank Knight, including news that there were once Peacocks in the formal garden.
Do you have any photos of the Peacocks you can share with us?
- **Ongoing Park Projects:** Rachel updated us on various park initiatives, including potential refurbishment of the Fountain and plans for the Camellia House protective roof.
- **Park Run Success:** Saj shared the impressive success of Park Run, including visitor feedback and potential future developments to possibly include a junior park run. We also touched on parking updates related to Park Run.
- **Helen** talked about the FoWP pamphlets, which are being revamped for the AGM.

There was a very enjoyable social afterwards with soft drinks and wine.



Park News in Brief

Several Horse Chestnut trees on Jubilee Avenue (the path from the Stableblock to the Hall) were removed due to poor health caused by *Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker* (see photo). The prolonged dry weather significantly worsened



their condition, leading to large branches falling onto public footpaths. This created an immediate and significant risk to public safety, forcing the council to fell the trees. We were assured this was a necessary safety measure, not a decision taken lightly by the Council. We are in

discussion with the Council regarding appropriate tree replacements.

Several members reported to us that during Splendour, the path from the lake to the stable sustained a lot of damage to the curbing. We have reported this to the Council and are awaiting



a response to the plans to repair it. We've also fed back on the number of discarded cable ties from the event.

There have been local press and BBC reports of issues with people getting too close to the deer (again) and litter in the park.

For the latest on these news stories, see:
<https://friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk/news/>

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Walled Garden Summer Fair



The Walled Garden Summer Festival welcomed 959 adults, 173 children, and 42 dogs, raising an incredible £3,500! Every penny of these funds will be directly invested into future enhancements for the garden.

A highlight was the firing up of the bread oven.



New Sensory Garden Opened

Contained within the Walled Garden, a new Sensory Garden was opened by the Sheriff of Nottingham, Councillor Zafran Khan.



Photo: Zafran Khan accompanied by Wollaton councillors Saj Ahmad and Steve Battlemuch and volunteer Kathryn Rowan.

Lilian Greenwood MP also visited the Walled Garden in August, accompanied by Zafran Khan and Steve Battlemuch. Seen below with Andy Jackson, viewing the Bothys due for restoration.



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Lenton Times



The Walled Garden is featured in Issue 50 of the Lenton Times.

The article describes the construction of the estate's first walled garden in 1742 by Francis Willoughby, primarily for culinary purposes (now the Botanic Garden). The article then describes the larger walled garden we know today, built between 1783 and 1788 under Henry Willoughby. The article also describes the slip gardens and an orchard. Finally, the feature discusses the integration of glass structures, tracing the evolution from an early conservatory at Wollaton to the later construction of heated glasshouses in the mid-1860s.

Copies are available for £2 in the Walled Garden, or via the Lenton Times website.

<https://www.lentontimes.co.uk>

Saturday Conservation Tasks.

We had to cancel the June conservation session due to the heatwave. In July and August, we returned to the tree nursery to clear a new area for more trees and open a path around the outside of the wall



To keep these Saturday sessions viable, we do need more volunteers. Can you help out? 3rd Saturday morning every month.

Tree Nursery Maintenance

The tree nursery has required significant maintenance, including watering during the long dry spell, and keeping the bindweed down by regular mowing.



If we are to expand the nursery, we'll need more volunteers to support the regular maintenance.

To keep the bindweed down, can you help us keep up regular mowing on Tuesdays or Thursdays during the growing season?

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Formal Garden



Feedback on the new planting scheme in the Formal Garden has been positive. The gardens have also benefited from the automated watering system, which was brought back to life with help from volunteers uncovering and maintaining the sunken sprinkler heads.

Plans for the pond restoration are progressing. We will bring more news as soon as we can.

On Hold - Camellia House Opening

Unfortunately, our June appeal for volunteers to help open the Camellia House on weekends didn't yield any responses, so we've had to put that plan on hold.

If you can help, please let us know!

Karen Lushey



Karen is moving to a full-time role with NCC libraries, and we at Friends of Wollaton Park (FoWP) want to express our sincere thanks for her incredible work as volunteer coordinator. Karen has been a vital link between NCC and FoWP, instrumental in launching many of our volunteer

activities, including those in the Walled Garden, Formal Garden, Hall, and various conservation tasks.

On a personal note, six years ago, as I approached retirement, I responded to Karen's Volunteer Park Ranger advert, which opened up a new chapter in my life and led to a new circle of friends with a passion for the park. I'm sure many others have similar stories of how Karen has opened doors for them.

We wish Karen all the very best in her new role and future endeavours.

Colin

Wollaton Walled Garden

AUTUMN FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th October

Entrance £2 (children free)

Open 11am - 4pm



Come and see the progress!

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

All for donations, cash preferred
All proceeds go towards Walled Garden projects

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Hedgehog Survey

You might recall that in 2024, volunteers placed 30 wildlife cameras in Wollaton Park as part of the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme in association with the University of Nottingham. While we didn't see any hedgehogs, we did capture some great wildlife images.

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



The university would like to re-run the exercise in 2025. We'll be setting up the cameras on Saturday Sept 20th. As before, we then need a team of people to review the images to identify what has been captured - last year we had 40,000 images to review!

If interested in either task, please contact Colin

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 in our monthly litter pick around Wollaton Hall & Deer Park

11AM – 12PM
Last Saturday in the month

Meet next to Red Telephone Kiosk at 11am

Litter pickers, disposable gloves, other tools and bags can be provided.

Please wear suitable clothing including sturdy footwear

For more information, contact Cllr Zafran Khan on 07583 723666
or e: zafran.khan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

What can YOU do? 

 /cleangreennottingham  @cleangreennottm
#keepitclean



Photo Credits: Paul Taylor, Russ Pearce, Helen Mitchem, Colin Robbins, Peter Forster, Valerie Ball, Kyle Hessom