



Dear Friends of the Park,

When we sent round the last newsletter in May we were worried about the impact of no rain in the Park. Here we are two months later and still very little rainfall. The school summer holidays are almost here and so maybe it will start raining soon! Here's hoping for rain every night but sunny days. In the meantime, you will find below news about the Park and dates of events coming up during July/August and beyond. We also attach a full list of dates to look forward to.

News

Wildflower Meadow.

The incredible work put in by the watering volunteers has paid off and the meadow extension is now a mass of annual flowers. The main meadow is now dying off and will hopefully seed for next year when we should see a good display of annuals and perennials.

The good news is that we have been successful in getting a further grant to extend the meadow – thanks to Andrew for all his work on the application. We will be sowing again in the autumn, everyone is welcome to get involved – look out for future dates!

Party in the Ponds.

We have been told that 9,500 people attended the event held on the sports field in the park. Friends of the Park litter picked from 12 noon until 10.30pm, and then the next morning. By 11.30 on Sunday the field was pristine, and someone asked us if Party in the Ponds had actually gone ahead – no litter! Brilliant job. Next year we are wondering about providing bags for people to take their own litter home with them. This will help with the bin capacity which once again was not enough despite extra bins being ordered by the organisers. Do you think that might work?

Balsam Bashing.

Thanks to the regular Friday afternoon and occasional Sunday morning work-parties, we have almost cleared all the Balsam from the Begbrook side of the river and made a huge impression on the Fishponds river bank. The Henry Slead stream is still clear after our efforts last year. For the rest of the Balsam bashing season we will continue to pull, Joe McKenna from Park Work will strim, and we may get over to Frog Island in the middle of the river. The Balsam is suffering from a lack of rain, it is not as tall as

last year and the flowers are late. Maybe we will have longer to remove as much as possible this year.

Planning meeting.

We are now holding regular two monthly planning meetings in the Community Hub at the Vassall Centre. At the June meeting we discussed creating four different tree trails, a visit to Blaise, a fellow designated natural Park, and undertaking an accessibility audit in the park. Do come to our next planning meeting on the 17th August – all welcome.

Fires in the Park

Fires in the Park are a real risk now. People can use barbecues with legs, but there are still those being used without legs (!).

Most of the recent fires have not been barbecue or cigarette related but a deliberate setting fire to trees or bracken. If you see these deliberate fire setters please do not challenge if you do not feel safe to do so, but do telephone the police on 999, the risk is that serious.

The barbecues are **not** a police matter, we can only try to educate as the bylaws in the Park are not clear to people and they often do not know the risk.

Play Area

The council has told us that the original design for the play area is now unaffordable as building costs have risen. The water feature is sadly gone but the pirate ship remains! You can see the new design in the Park front entrance notice board – and attached to this email. The new play area will hopefully be completed by early next year.

The Depot.

Nature surveys continue through the summer. There are four organisations who are now working together to see what they can develop in the depot – all along the lines suggested in the community conversations held last year and with a focus on young people as well as other groups in the area. It is not fair to say who the organisations are until they have worked out whether they can take on the huge task of creating something in the depot. We think we will know more toward the end of the year .

Mountain Bike Trails.

There will be a meeting between the trail builders, council, councillors and ourselves next week. It has been a long road in bringing everyone together. The council has been clear and put in writing that that they will not tolerate unauthorised Mountain Bike trails and will take steps to remove these. The council reference Parks Byelaws that prohibit trails, and say that, as custodians of the Oldbury Court the council is required to protect it, and the people that use it, from harm. In discussing the situation with the trail builders it is hoped that an understanding will be reached. We will let you know how those conversations go!

Help needed.

If you just have two hours a month to spare we would very much appreciate help with regular updates, press releases, the website and notice boards – everything communication related! We would be so grateful if you can help - contact us on admin@oldburycourtpark.org.uk Or come along to one of our regular planning meeting – see dates attached.

Funding – many of you donated a small amount weekly to us via the Ko-Fi platform. This platform does not work and many of us were 'thrown out' of it last year. If you would like to regularly donate the old fashioned way do take out a standing order to our bank account, just £2 a month is a real help!

Our bank details are:

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account Name: Friends Of The Park (Oldbury Court / Vassals Park)
Account Number: 49608860
Sort Code: 30-99-50

Events coming up.

Do see the attached list of all the events planned so far for July/August .

A few events coming up soon:

Friends of the Park Social – all welcome for a chat, drink, maybe a pizza at **Grounded 6.30 pm on Monday 14th July.**

Monitoring the meadow – join Amie for the second National Plant Monitoring Scheme survey of the meadow. Learn how to survey, see what plants we grew! **Thursday 17th July – meet by the meadow at 6pm.**

Want to stay completely up to date – get notification of new events/impromptu work parties etc? Join our What's App group by messaging us on 07779852011.

See you in the Park soon!





EVENTS July – August 2025

July 2025	Event	How to get involved.
Monday 14th July	Social At Grounded	All welcome for a chat, drink, maybe a pizza at Grounded 6.30 pm -9pm.
Thursday 17th July	Wildflower meadow monitoring	Join us at 6pm by the wildflower meadow to take part in the second National Plant Monitoring Scheme survey of the meadow. Learn how to survey, see what plants we grew!
Friday 18th July and 25th July	Work party – Himalayan Blasam pulling by the Frome.	Meet at the Kiosk at 1pm. Usual weather dependent clothing and precautions needed. The area we are pulling in has some nettles and brambles so please wear long sleeves and trousers and bring gloves.
Sunday 20th July	Work party – Himalayan Blasam pulling by the Frome.	Meet at the Kiosk at 10 am. Usual weather dependent clothing and precautions needed. The area we are pulling in has nettles and brambles so please wear long sleeves and trousers and bring gloves.
Sunday 27th July	RSPB Bio Blitz	The RSPB local group are planning a bioblitz in Oldbury Court on 27 th July – this usually involves a group of around 20 people and their description is: ‘a gradual walk through the site, using phones and cameras to record wildlife observations via iNaturalist, and maps and BTO species codes to record confirmed bird sightings. The event is advertised as ‘open to all’ with the aim of attracting anyone with an interest in connecting with local wildlife, regardless of identification skills/level.’ More details to follow.
Friday August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.	Regular Friday work party.	Meet at the Kiosk at 1pm. Join the FoP What’s App group or message 07779852011 to find out what we are up to that week.
Sunday August 17th	Planning Group	Everyone welcome – updates and planning how we are taking our park projects forward. Meet at the Vassall Centre Community Hub 10 – 12.
Sunday September 14th	Annual FoP picnic!	Join us anytime from 12 until 3 to do nothing but enjoy the park! More details to follow.