



Friends of Firs Farm

Registered Charity 1177069

L♥VE YOUR GREEN SPACE

Community working together to help shape how our park works, is maintained, & protected.

Friends of Firs Farm

Wetlands Park & Playing Fields

AGM - 18th June 2026

This report is to highlight the achievements and the aims of the group 'Friends of Firs Farm (FOFF)' for the twelve-month period to 31st March 2026.

Message from the Trustees – Thank you for your continued support with this special blue-green space!

It has been another busy year at Firs Farm.

During the 12 months to 31 March 2026, significant improvements were made across both the wetlands and the Hub, enhancing the site for visitors, wildlife and the wider community.

Firs Farm Community Hub

During the 2nd year, of the Hub, groundworks were completed to create a more welcoming and accessible outdoor space. This included the installation of a permeable surface, a covered pergola with lighting and heating, additional seating, and a children's rope seat. These improvements have created a valuable area for community groups, schools and families to gather and learn outdoors.

The Changing Places toilet and sensory room continue to provide inclusive facilities for visitors with complex needs, while plans are progressing to create a sensory garden and wildlife pond area behind the Hub.

A number of discarded planters were refurbished and replanted with grasses, ferns and herbs, creating attractive community spaces around the Hub. A popular stump garden was added to the area in front of the Hub. Some of the planting was carried out by local schoolchildren and families, helping strengthen community involvement in the site.

Firs Farm Wetlands – Activities and Achievements 2025/26

Throughout the year, extensive habitat management work was undertaken. Volunteers planted bulbs, created dead hedges, removed invasive vegetation and strengthened existing hedgerows by planting additional trees and whips. These improvements help protect and enhance the site's biodiversity for the future.

Schools continue to make excellent use of the wetlands as an outdoor learning resource, supported by Friends of Firs Farm equipment and facilities. Educational visits include pond dipping, ecological surveys and environmental studies, helping young people gain a greater understanding of local wildlife and conservation.

Volunteering

The Duke of Edinburgh programme has gone from strength to strength, with participants learning practical conservation skills including habitat management, tree planting, litter removal, safe wading techniques and tool use. Their work has made a valuable contribution to maintaining and improving the wetlands.

Volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do. During 2025/26, a record **1,303 volunteer visits** were recorded, contributing **4,574 hours** of time across a wide range of activities. Since records began in 2013/14, volunteers have contributed more than **41,500 hours** to Firs Farm Wetlands – the equivalent of almost **20 years of full-time work**.



Friends of Firs Farm Park

The majority of volunteer time was spent undertaking practical conservation and maintenance tasks within the park, with substantial additional support provided through administration, project planning, fundraising, meetings and community events. Corporate volunteer groups also continued to make a valuable contribution through organised volunteering days.

Water Quality Testing

Our group of volunteers are active every month going out in all weathers taking samples of the water to test how the wetlands cells are working in removing pollutants from the river before it joins up with the Pymmes Brook river under the A10.

Community Events

The site hosted a wide range of successful community events throughout the year, including Easter, Halloween and Christmas celebrations, bringing local families together and encouraging wider engagement with the wetlands. These events continue to strengthen Firs Farm's position as both a valuable nature reserve and an important community hub.

As Firs Farm continues to grow, so too does the need for volunteers. We welcome support from people with a wide range of skills, including event organisers, administrators, gardeners, craftspeople, artists and practical volunteers. Their contribution is vital in helping us continue to develop, protect and enhance this unique community resource for future generations.

Thank you

The FOFF Trustees

Becky Beach, Ben Bleet, Carl Redondo, Chris Ferrari, Paul Guiver, Peter Charalambous & Toni Guiver.



Friends of Firs Farm Park

Firs Farm Wetlands and Playing Fields and its unique position in the borough of Enfield brings a diverse community of people together. One of the borough's earliest and largest flood alleviation schemes has in under ten years, evolved into an important blue/green space, a diverse habitat for hundreds more species; enriching the lives of residents.

An award-winning site, visited by scientific institutions, ecological groups and local authorities from across the country to study both the environmental and amenity and social benefits in creating an amazing sustainable urban drainage system (SUDs).

Our Trustees and members

We currently have more than 500 members, 7 of which are trustees, with around approximately 25 active volunteers.

As a charity we are only as good as our Trustees and members and so we thank all members who got involved in the last year's work for the Friends of Firs Farm and we encourage others who feel that protecting a green & blue space is important for the community to come forward.

We are keen to involve more people with an interest in history, wildlife, education and environment. If you are interested or have skills in administration, volunteer leadership, or events to support our charity, please contact us.

Get out & Get Active in Firs Farm

There is so much more at Firs Farm, and it has been a great year with activities increasing and more visitors enjoying the 4 Tennis courts, table tennis, walking, jogging, just enjoying the nature and wildlife along with so many new activities & classes taking place in/out of the Hub.

We have seen a big increase in local schools/ families meeting up for extracurricular activities after school and in nursery groups due to the facilities being available. What a difference handwashing and toilets can make to a blue green space, especially with the added bonus of the 'Changing Places Toilet' and sensory room.



Public meetings with the Friends are an opportunity to discuss concerns and aspirations for the park.

We are continuing discussions with the council in relation to multi-sport pitches (Hockey. Football Badminton & Netball) paddle tennis, paths, vegetation, benches for access all-round the 1 mile circuit, and DDA parking close to the Hub.

Social Media / Google maps / website

Our website is still under review. We continue to use Facebook and Instagram with healthy follower numbers. We are looking for support with social media.

Our rating on Googles maps remains at a healthy 4.5.Star rating (580 good reviews).

Google reports that the average time spent at Firs Farm by visitors has doubled from 45 minutes in 2024 to 1.5 hours since we installed Firs Farm Community Hub.

Funding/donations

Funds/pledges all help us to continue to develop, protect and maintain this space for our communities.

Please refer to the Finance report for further information.

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Friends of Firs Farm Park

Summary

In summary, FOF, a registered Charity, dedicated to maintaining and protecting the park and wildlife for public benefit. The friends are an active group which is evidenced by volunteer hours since inception of **more than 41,500**.

There is currently **no membership fee** in order to keep the group 'open to all'. Donations are always welcome. Come and join us and show that you **L♥ve your Green Space**.

Thank you

The Trustees of Friends of Firs Farm

Registered Charity 1177069

Please also refer to the following: 1 Treasurers Report, 2 Elections of Trustees & Committee, 3 Membership Form

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