



# The Friends of Trent Country Park

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends:

Covid has lingered but many thousands have achieved some real joy in our wonderful park - which was even free from destructive mega events in 2020!

- Our park has experienced a lot of visitor pressure over the past few months, especially as we moved out of the dire restrictions at Christmas. All are welcome, some more than others.
- Runners have been in evidence and many families too; it is always a joy to see kids trying out their cycles and skates for the first time in the park.
- Dog owners are loyal users but we note a number from further away, not all keeping their dogs under control. There are unconfirmed reports of wildlife being savaged – dogs off the leash are suspected. We ask Friends to encourage other visitors not to spoil the park.
- Litter has been a major problem, here and elsewhere. We Friends encourage all to dispose of litter responsibly.
- We shed no tears for the abandonment of mega events last summer. We report at greater length below on our efforts to get Enfield Council to see sense on oversized festivals that rob us of the summer weeks in the park

We plan to resume live meetings in the autumn but hope to see you in the park before then. Wishing you a happy, healthy and successful 2021!

### Major events could be back this summer



**After this .....**

**We are left with this!**

Our visitors know full well the park was never designed for such huge

gatherings, now up to 25,000 per day. The build up and knock down comprise nearly 2 weeks of prime access time for visitors in August. The noise and nuisance, litter and many other abuses are intolerable, yet Enfield Council plugs on. And all for no financial gain. History taught us that up to 10,000 visitors per day was manageable and we welcome community events up to this level.

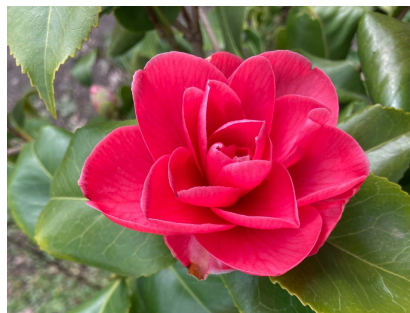
Last September the Council produced a revised events strategy, based on input we made back in January. We were promised discussions but the revised strategy was just dropped on us, job done. Its contents and provision showed no signs of our January inputs; once again Enfield Council decided over our heads what was right for our park - more events with no size limits and slap bang across the weeks the kids are out of school and looking forward to the freedom of the park. We are expected to live with it but it's not going to happen.

We were delighted major events were scrapped in 2020, allowing the park to recover from the heavy damage inflicted in 2019 - but we now face another season of events this year. With Covid all around us, we are astounded the council is trying to work events into the calendar. The many thousands of visitors to TCP each year deserve unlimited access out of lockdown. That's the way we'd like to keep it - a park for the people and local community activities.

In conjunction with CLARA, the local residents' association, the Friends continue to press the case for moderation. And we need your support. We will convey onwards all objections and comments, but even more effective is to write to the Leader of the Council, with a copy to us. Her email address is: [Cllr.Nesil.Caliskan@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Nesil.Caliskan@enfield.gov.uk)

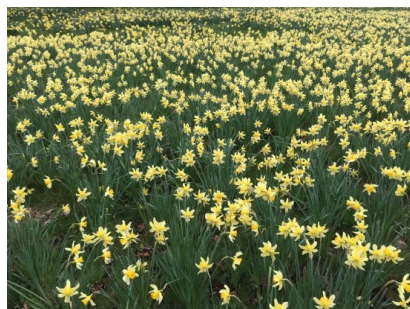
Every time you write to her, you improve our chances of getting a better balance on uses of the park. The local press - [Enfield Independent](#) and [Enfield Dispatch](#) - will take letters too. It all helps.

Please stay in touch with our campaign through Facebook and the website and respond to the call when the moment arrives to enter formal objections to Enfield Council.



### Spring in the Water Garden

The Water Garden was definitely 'discovered' over the past year and it's been lovely to see so many people enjoying our quiet oasis. The Spring flowers have been a welcome sight after so much time indoors. We have plans to plant some flowering trees soon [Thank you, Enfield in Bloom, for the grant] so watch out for a call for volunteers. A few of you are already on our list, so we'll be in touch - and thanks.



The re-establishment of an avenue of limes (a pre-war feature) from the north lawn down to the lake edge is very impressive - no expense has been spared. The Wisteria walk is well restored and looking healthy. The mansion is shortly to burst out of its winter scaffolding; there will be flats above ground level and



### Thames Water project

Thames Water is in the process of laying larger water mains close to their water tower near the Cockfosters café. This will take about 12 months to complete in different stages. During this work, some space will be taken from the café car park but additional spaces will be built in the woodland parking area. Watch out for the signs. This upgraded facility will remain when Thames Water have left the park, so we will have gained, albeit with some disruption in the short term. Widening the wire gate leading off Cockfosters Road, 200m north of the station, is planned to permit heavy vehicles to access the Thames Water site. But the Friends are strongly opposed to the Council retaining this entrance to bring oversized vehicles into the park via the backdoor for commercial purposes.

### Berkeley Homes update

Lots of us have been enjoying the daffodils this year - and a few of us have been taking some away. Please don't. Everyone deserves to see them.

The final form of the Berkeley campus is now clear to see - though construction is expected to continue for another two years. Over 100 families are installed or about to arrive.

museum space at entry level – the [Trent Park House](#) group is working hard to populate the exhibition space.

Access to the campus is not inevitable. The public are permitted to walk most of the grounds and signposts have been erected; but we note a minority of insensitive people have let their dogs loose in the Berkeley estate, fouling has taken place and bulbs ripped up. Some visitors have even peered into occupied homes. This behaviour must stop otherwise, and with reason, Berkeley residents will press for restrictions on access. Everyone will lose.

The Friends work closely with Berkeley site management and we are pleased, as ever, to report our input is given sympathetic hearing.

## News Round-up

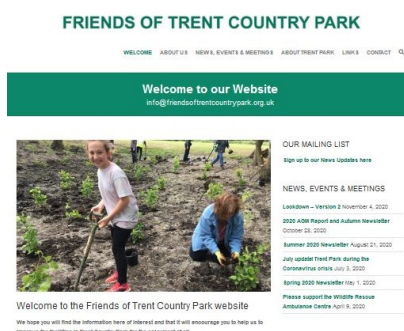
**Park Maintenance** We and the Parks Department are well aware that there is a huge amount of delayed maintenance to catch up on after so many visitors escaping lockdown during the past year. Fences are down, grass has been worn away, the car parks are full of potholes, all the footpaths are now twice as wide and compacted – and the list goes on. Parks have decided to do nothing until after the summer season, which they expect to be equally busy, but, at some point, we may start to compile a list for them and will ask for your help at that time.

**Thames21** are still working in the park and sometimes need volunteers. We try to post workdays on our Facebook page, so please check there or visit their website.

**Froglife** should also be back soon working on habitat ponds.

**Enfield Conservation Volunteers** will also be starting up some projects in the park. Check their website for information.

**Flora and Fauna** Some old bird and plant records for Trent Park were found in the mansion while Berkeley were clearing it out. The park used to be much more bird-friendly and, at least until the 1930s, was home to hares. Wouldn't that be nice!



## Membership renewals

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2021. It's not too late. You can renew or join via PayPal on the website for just £4 a year or £25 for a lifetime membership.

[Click here to support us](#)

## Visit the website

The Friends website is packed with useful and fun information. You can learn about the history and ecology of the park and much more.

[Website](#)

Friends of Trent Country Park  
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<https://friendsoftrentcountrypark.org.uk/>



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