

# Friends of Friary Park

Summer 2023

## New flowerbed adopted!



It's been lovely to see green-fingered Plamena getting stuck in to planting a new flowerbed in the Secret Garden at the top of Friary Park park this month.

Plamena signed up to the council's Adopt a Flowerbed scheme in June and after receiving donated plants and tools she has already transformed the tired bed with a range of brightly coloured perennials.

Not only is adopting a flowerbed a great way to contribute to the community, it gets you outdoors and helps the butterflies and the bees.

If you're interested in adopting a bed, please email [Friendsoffriarypark@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsoffriarypark@gmail.com)

## A river runs through it

We had a great turn out to the Friary Park River Restoration event on 25th March.

The event, organised by Thames 21, was an opportunity for residents to learn about the council's plans to restore Blacketts Brook in Friary Park which has been prone to flooding in recent years.

The project's aims are to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and to create a wildlife habitat.

We are waiting for further details & are looking forward to working with Thames 21 to support them with this important scheme.

Pls visit our website [www.friendsoffriarypark.org](http://www.friendsoffriarypark.org) for updates.

FRIARY PARK RIVER RESTORATION	
11:00	River dipping
11:30	Meet here for guided walk of the river & discussion on river restoration
12:00	Water quality testing
12:45	River dipping
13:45	Meet here for guided walk of the river & discussion of river restoration
14:15	Water quality testing
15:00	End of event
EVERYONE WELCOME!	



## Wild about Friary Park

It's been so nice to see children from Northside School playing in the wooded area of the park as part of a new Forest School programme run by Wild About Our Woods.

The new programme gives children a chance to connect with nature and to enjoy playing outdoors.

The programme will be running weekly during term time until February half term, so if you see them please wave hello!

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## Game, Set & Match!

The new tennis courts are up and being enjoyed by residents young and old in time for Wimbledon.

The court refurbishment, which was funded by the Lawn Tennis Association, is a real transformation.

The courts are currently free to use and can be booked by visiting <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/FriaryPark>

## Cafe Update

We are disappointed by the lack of progress with the cafe in Friary House.

The council has appointed new lessees for the cafe who are very experienced cafe owners and are committed to making it a success.

Unfortunately, they cannot begin renovating the premises until the building is properly assessed for subsidence and some remedial works are undertaken. They are in talks with the council to find a mobile cafe as an interim solution.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are engaging with local councillors and the new lessees to find a work around this summer so people can enjoy refreshments in the park.



## Friends of Friary Park

We are a group of local people who care about this beautiful park.

Our aims are:

- \*to protect and improve the park's environment & biodiversity
- \*to advance the arts, culture & heritage of the park
- \*to bring the community together through volunteering and shared goals

We look forward to working together with other community groups, volunteers & residents to make Friary Park a space we can all be proud of.

We'd like to thank the outgoing Friends Group who have worked tirelessly over many years to give their time, experience and knowledge to improve the park.

To find out more please visit [www.friendsoffriarypark.org](http://www.friendsoffriarypark.org) or email [friendsoffriarypark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffriarypark@gmail.com)

