

FRIENDS OF WESTWOOD PARK

JANUARY 2026



Our Biggest Year

2025 was a standout year for Friends of Westwood Park. We proudly launched the Community Garden, transforming unused land into a vibrant space where volunteers, families, and visitors now grow, learn, and connect. Alongside it came the beautifully designed sensory garden, offering a peaceful, inclusive space that quickly became a favourite for those seeking calm and connection with nature.

The year ended on a high with our first-ever on-site Santa's Grotto. Moving the event into the garden allowed us to create a truly festive atmosphere, complete with hot chocolate stands, tombolas, arts and crafts, cakes, and plenty of Christmas sparkle. The response from local families was overwhelming and made the whole event feel magical.



Defibrillator Battery Replacement

The Westwood Park defibrillator reached its fifth year in service in 2025. Although it has fortunately never been required for use on a patient, it has been activated several times by the 999 emergency service. On each occasion, an ambulance arrived before the device needed to be deployed, highlighting how vital this equipment is and how often it has been close to being used.



FOWP carry out weekly checks to ensure the defibrillator remains in full working order. Earlier in 2025, the battery failed and required replacement at a cost of approximately £350.

We are extremely grateful to Personalised Home Improvements, who generously donated the full amount to cover the cost of the new battery. Their support ensures this lifesaving equipment continues to be available for our community, and we are certain that everyone locally appreciates their contribution.



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What's Next For 2026

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news with all our supporters and volunteers—FOWP has successfully secured funding to begin the next phase of our site development! This is a major step forward in our mission to expand our growing capabilities and create more community-focused spaces for everyone to enjoy.

One of the biggest highlights of this phase is the installation of a brand-new 9m x 5m polytunnel. This space will open up a world of new growing opportunities, especially for plants that thrive in warmer, more sheltered conditions.

Inside the polytunnel, we'll be able to grow:

🍅 Tall tomato vines 🍆 Aubergines 🥒 Cucumbers

...and a whole range of larger or more delicate vegetables that benefit from extra heat and wind protection.

The design includes: A bench-growing area, direct-to-ground beds, sliding doors at both ends for easy access and a water irrigation system for efficient care

This will make the space practical, productive, and accessible for all our volunteers

Alongside the polytunnel, we're developing a large, open community area perfect for events, workshops, and gatherings. This new space will be surrounded by grassy areas ideal for relaxing, planted fruit trees and a colourful wildflower meadow to support local wildlife

This next chapter wouldn't be possible without the brilliant support of Paul & Paul from Wood For All UK LTD. Based locally and bringing extensive experience in groundworks and garden environments, they have been invaluable in helping us get this project off the ground.



Improving What We Have

Alongside the new development phase, we're also making several upgrades across the site. We're adding more growing beds, increasing our rainwater storage, and creating a larger composting area to support sustainable growing.

We're also pleased to share that Brackenhill Primary School has kindly donated 14 classroom chairs, which will be a welcome addition to our cabin for workshops and volunteer use. A big thank you to them for their generosity!



A heartfelt thank you to all our local yearly sponsors for your continued support. Your generosity plays a vital role in helping us grow, improve our site, and deliver more for our community each year. We truly couldn't do this without you—thank you for being part of our journey!



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