

FRIENDS OF WESTWOOD PARK



JANUARY 2025

2024 Overview

2024 has been an incredibly busy and productive year for FOWP, marked by a range of exciting initiatives and accomplishments.

The team began the development of the much-anticipated Community Garden, with Phase 1 set to be completed by spring 2025—more updates on this below.

We also successfully upgraded Santa's Sleigh, making it even more magical for Santa's visits. In addition, FOWP organised 80 Santa Home Visits, including special visits to Cooper House Care Home and the Assisted Living Accommodation, bringing festive cheer to many.

Over 100 letters were received and responded to through the Santa Post Box, further spreading the magical joy.

The year also saw the Easter Bunny in the park & a new Book Swap facility, creating wonderful opportunities for community engagement and fun

Sleigh Upgrade

We were successful in acquiring community chest funding from Bradford Council to upgrade the much-loved Westwood Park sleigh! 2024 marked the 5th anniversary of our Santa visits.

The upgrades included a new waterproof compartment for storing presents, a brand-new speaker system and lights, a fresh coat of red paint, as well as tug ropes and festive Christmas decorations. We're grateful to the Bradford Council for their support, helping us make the sleigh even more magical for our community.



Post Box

For the very first time, Christmas 2024 saw Santa's postbox making its debut in the park, adding an extra touch of holiday magic. A total of 118 letters were posted by children, with over 100 of them leaving their addresses for Santa to personally respond. This new tradition brought even more joy and excitement to the community, making this Christmas season truly unforgettable!



COMMUNITY GARDEN



96 Tonnes of Hardcore



The extensive removal of brambles significantly disturbed the ground, resulting in an extremely boggy and unstable surface. This made the working conditions unsafe for further activity. To address this, 96 tonnes of hardcore had to be laid down to stabilise the area before any work could safely commence. Drainage & Weed membrane was also applied to pathways

Still to come

Set to open in spring 2025, the site will feature a log cabin and potting shed dedicated to teaching both children and adults how to plant and grow food. In addition, a wheelchair-friendly greenhouse will be constructed, alongside rows of fruit trees and accessible pathways, ensuring that everyone can enjoy and participate in the gardening experience.



For all to enjoy!

The community garden will be open to everyone, from local residents and school children to youth clubs and social prescribing groups, offering a space for all to enjoy and learn. In the meantime, if you would like to help establish the garden, we are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at info@fowp.co.uk to get involved.



In the early months of 2024, FOWP successfully acquired the land for the community garden after three years of discussions.

The NHS, as the landowners, generously cleared away over 20 years' worth of brambles, installed gates, and created a temporary driveway to allow access.

The condition of the land beneath the brambles was unknown, so the challenges ahead were uncertain. The project was divided into two phases, with Phase 1 set to be completed by Spring 2025.

To date, FOWP has made incredible progress: the ground has been levelled and made safe, 80 individual planting plots have been created (including wheelchair-friendly options), two greenhouses have been installed, 40 tonnes of topsoil have been filled, hundreds of laurel bushes have been planted, and mulching has been carried out. Additionally, the groundwork for a new log cabin/potting shed has been established.

The transformation is well underway, and the community garden is already shaping up to be a fantastic space for all to enjoy.

