

# Annual report

Friends of Wray 18-19



# Friends of Wray Crescent

## 2019 Annual Report

### Achievements

The Yvonne Connolly Kitchen Garden became real.

Our group raised funds, filled, planted and nurtured our beds.

A forgotten corner of our park became better for everyone.

Together.

*“Wray Crescent used to be a fairly unpleasant place, now it has become a little oasis”. (Local comment).*





# 2019 Highlights

Here are some of the highlights across the first year.



## Over £8,000 raised:

£6,291 (from Greener Cities Fund), c.£2,097 from Islington Council and £500 from ourselves.

## Over 500+ volunteer hours

Planning, fund-raising, placing and filling the beds, planting, watering, weeding, hoeing (thanks Gerry), nurturing, harvesting, meetings and more.

- As a group, volunteers contributed at least 250 hours of their time by the time the first plants went in.

- We have held regular meetings and sessions, across summer with more to come.
- Members have worked beyond the Vegetable Garden. They (led by Lois and Gerry) are improving flower beds around the park, contributing time, effort and more to make those spaces better.

## We had a party

Over 60 people attended the garden launch event in July. We sold cakes, enjoyed an excellent barbecue (thanks Simon) and hosted speeches from Yvonne Connolly and leader of the council, Richard Watts. Our local neighbours from Pretty Shiny Shop helped us raise cash with a brilliant raffle.

## Building partnerships

We've built stronger partnerships with so many park users, with Islington council, our local councillors, the local school, Streets Kitchen, the police, and local community groups.

## Growing membership

Membership has reached 60 people. Growing this is our challenge for the next 12-months.



**We even have a website: [www.mywray.org.uk](http://www.mywray.org.uk)**



## What we hope to do in the next year

- Maintain, improve and expand the Kitchen Garden (more beds and signage).
- Create and build a woodland path.
- Expand wildflower plantings across the park.
- Fundraise for and place an outdoor gym area.
- Push for more lighting near the basketball pitch.
- Oppose the privatisation of our public space and negotiate a better deal for our community, particularly around cricket.
- Raise funds.
- Expand membership, including an expansion of our social media presence.

