



**GREEN FLAG AWARD
FOR WRAY CRESCENT**



**GRENVILLE GARDENS
APPEAL FOR HELP**



**WORKGROUPS
NOVEMBER 14, 21**

FoWCOS NEWS



Congratulations Yvonne Conolly

Friends of Wray Crescent would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to local resident, Yvonne Conolly, who has become a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and won a prestigious 2020 NAZ Legacy Honourary Fellowship of Education award in recognition of her career achievements in education.

We named our kitchen garden after Yvonne, because we wanted it to recognise someone from our community who had achieved something outstanding. We're thrilled she has now won major national recognition.

"It is so good that the Friends of Wray have worked hard to ensure the park's growth during this difficult time thus helping people. Wonderful!"

Yvonne Conolly

Yvonne arrived from Jamaica in 1963 and in spite of racist opposition became the UK's first black headmistress at Ringcross Infant School. "I got the second job I applied for," she said. "I was flabbergasted."

'OUR SOCIETY OWES A DEBT'

"I cannot begin to imagine the character and determination she must have shown to lead the way for black educators 50 years ago," Prince Charles said, when awarding her with the Fellowship of Education.

"Our society owes a particular debt to the Windrush generation. It is of vital importance that we recognise the legacy and achievements of trailblazers like Yvonne.

"It is a tribute not only to one inspiring individual but to the whole community she represents and as such, could not be more richly deserved."

We will be introducing Yvonne's favourite flowers permanently to the Yvonne Conolly Garden! Congratulations Yvonne!

Wray Crescent is now a Green Flag Park



Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen and outstanding support from Islington Council, Wray Crescent has become a Green Flag Park.

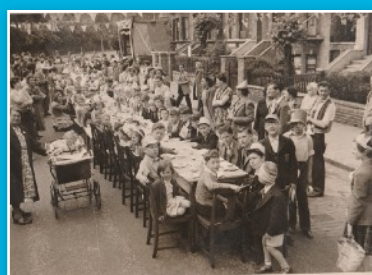
The Green Flag is a globally recognised benchmark for green spaces and parks.

Judging took place in September, when we discussed the work we have done and our hope to make our precious green space better for everyone.

The judge's report said: "Friends of Wray Crescent make such a difference in making this a great park to visit by implementing improvements and driving for more! Keep up the fantastic work in this aspect in providing what residents want from the park."

The judge recommended more park user surveys and suggested we encourage the bat population and organise nighttime bat walks in the woodland area as a kid's activity. Please let us know if you'd like to help.

Some of what we've been up to



We love to see the local kid's get involved in learning how nature works

The children's area is so unique thanks to Billie's inspirational signs.

The lower image was taken in 1953 during a coronation day street party on Wray Crescent.

What we've been doing

Everyone in the world is being impacted by COVID-19. We're no exception. The virus means we couldn't achieve all we'd hoped to this year. We had to shelve plans for workshops and a string of small public events we were going to put together.

We've also been unable to meet our fundraising targets — though we are so grateful to Simon English, Micky Khurana and Yvonne Conolly for their personal donations and the brilliant parks team and local councillors for great support and the LIF funding to help our work.

Successes? We kept the kitchen garden going and were able to deliver several small harvests of crops grown there to the food bank at Brickworks Community Centre.

We continue to improve the main flower beds, built park sculptures (Bita & Pepe) and laid and maintained a path across the muddiest part of the park. We estimate our core team achieved over 1,500 hours of voluntary work this year! Coming soon we have a surprise in the Orchard!

We've also begun what will be an extensive series of park user surveys as we work to identify what the community most needs — exercise equipment, for example.

We have so many ideas and there is much more we hope to do to put our precious green space at the heart of our community. We need **your** help and ideas so please spread the word, get involved — **and watch our website for a public Zoom meeting soon!!** - FoWCOS Team.



Please help Grenville Gardens

Some of you may know Grenville Gardens on Grenville Road.

The Friends group there really need our help due to circumstances very much beyond their control. They have worked so very hard for years to turn what was once an unloved space into something so much better and they need people power to help them keep going.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved, then please make contact, and keep an eye on our website, emails and social media feeds for chances to get involved.

Announcement: Mailing list

We've grown! We're really pleased about that, but we now need to a better mailing list solution than we've been using. We've decided to migrate the list to Mailchimp. Nothing changes for you, but we wanted to let you know so you could decide what you want to do.

Please use the '*Unsubscribe*' button if you no longer want to be on our list (we hope you stay), or (better), get everyone else you know who uses the park to join the group and we can all try to work together to make our precious green space better for all of us.

Workgroup Sessions

November 14, November 21, noon

We've not held any working parties for some time. We want this to change.

Please join us for two incredibly socially-distanced sessions on **Saturday November 14** and **Saturday November 21**, both starting at noon.

We will be settling the Yvonne Conolly Kitchen Garden for winter, planting new fruit bushes around the garden, and a few other tasks — but we need your help!



We'd love you to turn up and help, but we want to stress the need to remain socially distant through these sessions. We want to help our community, not infect it, so if you can make it (and we hope you do), please follow these simple rules:

Please only turn up if you are symptom free.

- Wear a mask.
- Bring your own gardening gloves.
- Keep at least 2-metres away from everyone else.
- Bring your own tools if you can – a shovel would be great.
- Register your contact details when you turn up for track & trace.
- It would be helpful if you can let us know you will attend before the session.

Stay tuned

www.mywray.org.uk

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FRIENDS OF WRAY CRESCENT WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY