



Newsletter: April 2020

Events

As you can guess, all events have had to be cancelled until further notice. This includes cancelling the open meeting for all Friends announced in the last newsletter for 16 April. We do not expect to be able to run events or to hold the Friends meeting until at least the autumn.

The site is open if you want to walk round it as part of your daily exercise. If you go into the wild part please keep to the paths. This is at your own risk and be aware that there are fox holes and fallen logs hidden even in the paths. Please take care. Please do not do any cutting back as it is now the nesting season and we don't want to disturb birds and other wildlife.

The Committee has tried to push on with realising the vision for the site, so there's lots of news in this newsletter, including an up-date on funding.

What's been happening

The Committee plans to meet online in a couple of weeks' time to develop an outline plan of what the site might look like in the long run. We'll be publishing something once it's better developed, so people can comment.

Animals and plants

Samuel, one of our Committee members, will be setting-up animal detection kits for rodents and other small mammals as part of our efforts to find out what is living on the wild part of the site. These kits look for hedgehogs, mice species and vole species. He will be able to do this alone as part of his daily exercise and so within current regulations.

Samuel also recommended "Picture This", an app that you can download for free. If you point it at a plant it will identify it for you. Other apps are available that do the same thing.



Common Primrose - at the top of The Green Field

History

Our site is within an Area of Special Archaeological Significance (ASAS), which is an area that holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation. So we have made contact with HADAS (Hendon and District Archaeological Society). They dug in the far north-eastern corner in the late 1970s and have some finds. Once things return to normal we will have access to their archive and be able to view these finds.



A magical place for storytelling

Funding

A grant application has been submitted to Barnet Council for a start-up grant to cover the costs of setting-up and running the group, the initial clear-up of the wild area and various planting. The West Finchley Ward Councillors have visited the site and are very supportive. It is unclear when, or indeed how, the grant will be considered but at least it has been submitted.

We were hopeful of some private sector funding but discussions on this have halted in the current uncertain business climate. We hope to be able to resume the relationship once things rerun to something more like normal.

We also hope to run a crowdfunding event once our plan for the site is firmer.

Master Plan

The Committee is continuing to work on a draft plan for the site based on the agreed Vision and feedback we have had from Friends.

Ideas include a small orchard, a wildlife area, a wild flower area, an informal play area and seating areas, including a Friendly Bench. See <https://www.thefriendlybench.co.uk/>

We aim to present an outline plan for presentation to the next full Friends Meeting.

Friends Open Meeting

The next meeting for all Friends and anyone interested in finding out more about the group, has been cancelled. We will rearrange this meeting in line with our constitution as soon as possible.

There are now over 70 Friends. If your family, friends and neighbours would like to get involved ask them to contact us on fofows@gmail.com



Fungus on a dead tree - King Alfred's Cakes?

The Friend's Committee

Karen Goodman agreed to become Treasurer, taking over from Richard Bartholomew but in the current circumstances we think it would be better to delay this handover until the autumn.

Help is needed to identify the boundaries of the site. If you are a solicitor with expertise in land ownership issues and are able to volunteer please get in touch.

Additionally, we would still like some more people to volunteer to help organise the group. It would help spread the load. We meet about once a month in each other's homes to take forward the vision, organise events and follow-up on fund raising. At the moment we are meeting using online conferencing.



English Bluebell? In The Orchard

Policies

We have revised the Privacy and Safeguarding policies.

The up-dated version of the privacy policy allows for *all* members of the Committee to access to the database of Friends. This is to enable us to organise events and activities more easily. The fofwos@gmail.com address remains accessible only to Suzanne King and Alan Douglas as Chair and Secretary of the Friends.

The revised privacy policy can be found at the end of this newsletter. The database only holds whatever information you have given. We only need your name and email address. Some people have also given their phone number and/or street address. These can be removed if you wish. In some cases we have also recorded how you heard about the group to help with the growth of the group. If you would like more information please contact us by emailing fofwos@gmail.com.

This policy will come into force 1 May 2020, so please contact fofwos@gmail.com before then, if you do not want the full Committee to have access or if you would like more details.

Donations

Despite having to freeze activities, we can still accept donations and it is possible for some things, such as the ecology survey, to take place. Please email fofwos@gmail.com for details of how to donate.

What you can do

While there will be no active marketing to draw in more Friends in the current situation, if you are able to deliver leaflets in the future please let us know.

We would love to hear from you. If you have an article, news item or photograph, do send it in, especially if you use the app to identify something on Finchley Way Open Space. Please send contributions to fofwos@gmail.com



Hart's Tongue Fern

Social Media

There is a Facebook open to all FOFWOS members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385689341590473/>

Please log in to see what's happening, post photos and messages for Friends - some of who cannot go out at the moment. There are two videos on the group page worth watching - hedgehogs and foxes and the work party in action!

Watch out for our forthcoming Instagram and Twitter pages.

Privacy Statement

This is our revised privacy policy.

We take privacy and data protection very seriously so you can be assured that **we will never pass on** your contact details to third parties. Only the Friends of Finchley Way Open Space Committee members have access to the database and to the email address fofwos@gmail.com.

Your contact details will only be used to keep you informed of activities related to Finchley Way Open Space and Brent Lodge Open Space (which is the area adjacent to Penstemon Close). This will include information about forming the Friends group, management of the area and calls for support for certain activities, such as clear-ups.

The database only holds the personal details you have given relating to **name & surname, email address and, where supplied, number of house and street address, postcode and phone number.**

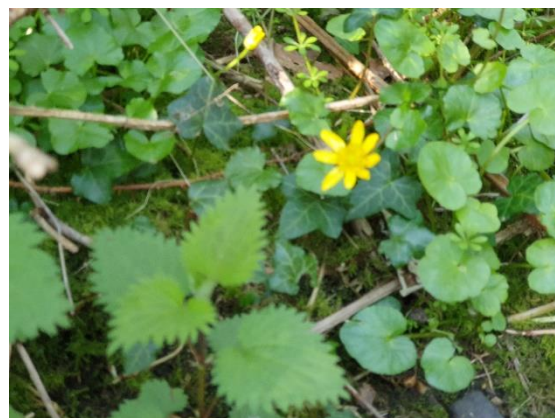
Only name and email address is required to receive information.

We do not collect data from other sources.

You can **unsubscribe** from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com. You can request that all your details and email history be deleted at any time.



Possible fox den?

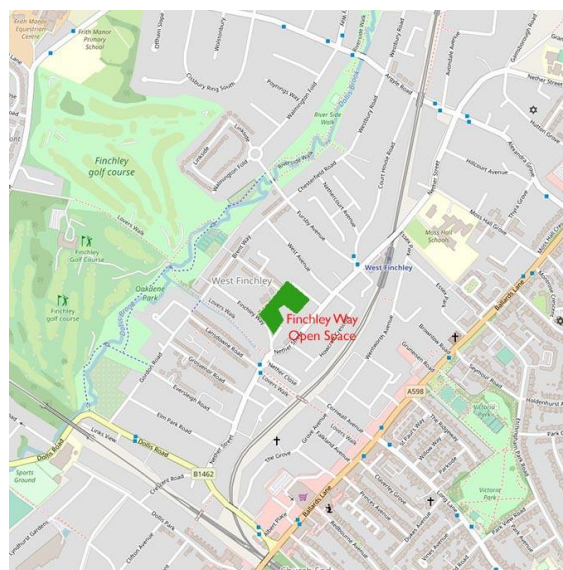


Lesser Celandine



Could there be hedgehogs in here?

Location of the site



Thank you for your support

Contributors - Alan Douglas and Suzanne King
Photographs - Alan Douglas

Personal Appeal - Alan is no longer allowed to go out and take photographs of the site. Can anybody help by visiting the site and recording what's growing and living there? Smartphone pictures are fine.