



## Newsletter: March 2020

### Next Event

Our next event will be held on Saturday 21 March, between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Meet in The Green Field, Finchley Way, N3 1AG. We will be doing another litter pick and some vegetation cutting. This time we will also be going into the The Copse and The Orchard - the “wild areas”. As it is nesting season, we will have to be careful to avoid disturbing any birds. Look out for more details soon.

### What's been happening

We have had two successful work parties. We have cut some ‘windows’ in the vegetation to open up the site to passers-by and cleared a lot of litter.



19 February - the team at the end of the day.



23 February - as well as the usual bottles and bags we found a dustbin, traffic cone and car number plate. There's more to collect!

### Friends

We now have over 70 Friends. If your family, friends and neighbours would like to get involved ask them to contact us on [fofows@gmail.com](mailto:fofows@gmail.com)



Poster for our last event

### Friends Open Meeting

The next meeting for all Friends and anyone interested in finding out more about the group, will be held on Thursday 16 April, 8.00 pm at the Finchley Lawn Tennis Club, Brent Way, N3 1AR. For directions see [http://www.finchleyltc.org/?page\\_id=21](http://www.finchleyltc.org/?page_id=21).

Please let us know if you will be coming for catering purposes.

## The Friend's Committee

Karen Goodman has agreed to become Treasurer.

We would still like some more people to volunteer to help organise the group. - It would help spread the load - it's not very onerous.

## Policies

We now have Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Equality policies in place.

## Funding

FoFWOS now has a bank account. We need this to apply for grants and to seek sponsorship for our works. If you know of any individuals or organisations that might be prepared to fund us, please let us know.

We have recently attended a workshop on Crowdfunding, organised by LB Barnet in partnership with Spacehive. More details soon.

## Donations

The committee has decided not to charge a membership fee so that becoming a Friend is open to all. However, any donations to the cause will be welcome. Please email [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) for details of how to donate.

## Ecological Survey

As The Copse and The Orchard have been neglected since about 2006, the area has become completely overgrown. Access is very difficult but before we can undertake much clearing, we need to carry out an ecological survey. This will determine what habitats we have for wildlife and what would need protection - both flora and fauna. We have obtained costs from consultants but

until we have funding, we cannot place any contracts.

We have some people who can identify some species and will start our own surveys. If anybody has any skills in identifying species of flora or fauna and would like to help, please get in touch.



Anybody know what this is? It's growing in The Copse.

## Master Plan

The Committee is currently working on a draft plan for the site. We have had an aerial survey done using a drone and photographed the boundaries of the site. The next phase is to agree what uses we can make of the site and what facilities we could incorporate. A lot depends on agreeing with LBB the ownership and location of boundaries.

We aim to produce an outline plan for presentation to the next full Friends Meeting in April.



This tree in The Green Field may be dead - could it be the site of the tawny owl nest?



## Contributions

We would love to hear from you. If you have an article, news item or photograph - please send it to - [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com)

## Social Media

We have two Facebook pages:

A Group - open to all FoFWOS members

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

and a page open to the general public

[https://www.facebook.com/Friends-Of-Finchley-Way-Open-Space-116471129909704/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-Of-Finchley-Way-Open-Space-116471129909704/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

Please log in to see what's happening and contribute. 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.



A seat in The Orchard made of slate - home-made?

## Privacy Statement

We take your privacy seriously and do not pass on contact details to any third parties or collect information other than that which you provide. Our statement is currently being amended and will be reissued shortly.

## Barnet Council

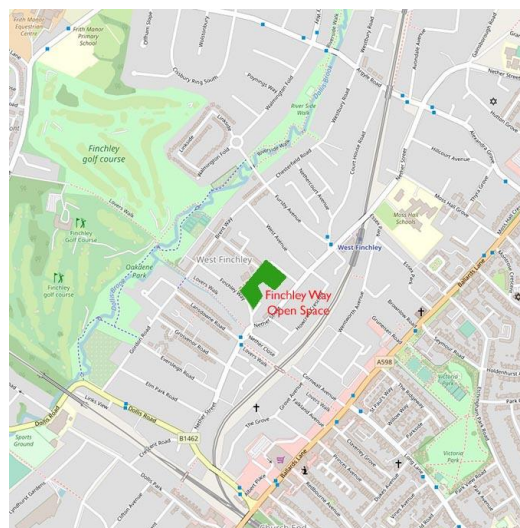
We are in contact with the Council over the future of the site and have the support of the West Finchley Ward Councillors.



This sign and the fence have recently been flattened. We will try to put it back.



Aerial view of The Orchard



Location of the site

Contributors - Alan Douglas and Suzanne King.

Photographs - Max Alter and Alan Douglas

**Thank you for your support**