



Newsletter: December 2022

The next volunteering sessions will be 8th January and 12th February 2023

From March volunteering sessions will take place on the second and last Sundays in the month. Dates will be on the website and on the gates soon.

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Next issue: March 2023

Happy New Year!

Key findings from the annual consultation

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire. There were 49 responses.

The key points are:

- ❖ Half of the respondents go to the site to go somewhere quiet and most of them go on their own or with another adult.
- ❖ Respondents like the site because it's:
 - a haven for wildlife
 - a nice place to walk
 - has good planting
 - is well cared for
 - has good paths
 - well designed
- ❖ There were few negatives but respondents would like more planting and seating

A short report of the findings will be available on the website soon. The trustees are working on the planting and there are now five benches and some informal log seating.

There are no bins to encourage people to take their litter home and to enable better use of Council resources.

Please look after your dogs and take their litter home as well!

We are planning an open Friends meeting in the summer, once we have submitted our annual report to the Charity Commission.



Icy handprints on the seat

Improvements to the site

The Orchard

This area has undergone major renovations since FoFWOS was formed, as many readers will know.

In order to diversify the wildlife, we need to diversify planting and to do that we need to diversify the soil.

That's why last month sand and crushed ceramic were delivered and placed on top of the permeable membrane.



BWS placing sand in the Orchard

This will stop the bramble from coming back in the central area.



Volunteers have tidied the area ready for planting wildflower seeds and plugs (small plants) in the spring.

It will be spring 2024 before things come to fruition but by June you will be able to see what we're aiming for.

See the Instagram account for more photos and the You Tube channel for more videos of the work being done.

Eventually the area should look something like this.



John Little's Garden south Essex

Thanks to John Little, garden designer, for the time he has spent with the trustees and the advice he has generously given. His website is:

[The Green Roof Company](#)

Thanks to BW Services for working with us on this and doing a great job.



Tidying the mounds



Log pile for insect homes

The Green Field

If you pass by the site along Finchley Way, you should have noticed that the shrubs have been cut back to enable you to see in. This makes visitors feel safer as the area is not concealed.

Wildflowers will be sown at the top of the field in the area in front of the fence with Cedar Court. This should brighten up the area for the spring and summer.

The trustees want to keep the field as an open area. We plan more planting round the edge but the soil is very hard to dig.

The mound at the top in front of the metal gate is the site of the old house (Brent Lodge) and it seems that the cellars and foundations remain.

The Copse

The Copse is the area that links the Field to the Orchard by way of a woodchipped path.

This area has been mainly left to give a rural feel to the site and allow nature to take its course.

Unfortunately, some trees came down in the storms earlier in the year. Like all sites, it will need some management and we will keep an eye on things.

Volunteers

Despite the cold we had a good final session of the year on the 11th December 2022.



A small party was held for the volunteers who were there that day with traditional seasonal fare including mince pies and mulled wine.



Volunteers at the last meeting of 2022

If you volunteer regularly you might want to join the new WhatsApp group. It allows us to let you know about the volunteering sessions, especially if we have to cancel a session at short notice or plan to go ahead even if it's raining.

If you'd like to join the group either let Suzanne or Karen have your number when you come along to a session or email us.

Remember that everyone in the group will be able to see your phone number.

Donors

Thanks also to those of you who have donated money during the year.

Financially we had a lot of help from Barnet's Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee and the National Lottery Community Fund but extra money that we can spend with no strings helps with the little extras and the day-to-day running of the charity. See page 4 for details of how to donate.

We receive a lot of moral and practical support from Barnet's Greenspaces team.

About the charity

Donating

Donations support the purchase of plants, equipment, facilities for the site and to fund work that cannot be undertaken by volunteers. All the administration is done by volunteers.

All the ways to donate are on our website [Donation information](#).

Donations can be made direct by bank transfer to:

Sort Code: 01-06-28
Account Name: Friends of Finchley
Way Open Space
Account number: 44189184

FoFWOS is registered for Gift Aid. The form can be filled in online [here](#) or we can send you a copy by email contact our Treasurer, at fofwos@gmail.com.

FoFWOS also accepts donations via [PayPal](#), [GoFundMe](#), [Benevity](#) and [CAF](#)

If you use Amazon, please consider switching to smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Friends of Finchley Way Open Space as your charity. FoFWOS will receive 0.5% of your purchase price as a charitable donation on specified items.

Join Give with Bing and earn points from Microsoft Rewards that turn into real donations for us! Sign up [here](#)

If you buy bird food, feeders, etc., please use this link to [CJ Wildlife](#) which is also on the FoFWOS website. It will generate some commission for FoFWOS on every sale.

Go to the website for back issues of the [newsletter](#) and information about the site.

Get involved

We welcome new Friends and volunteers. You don't have to volunteer to be a Friend and you don't need to be a Friend to volunteer.

Facebook

There is an open Facebook [page](#) and a closed [group](#).

YouTube

The YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look [YouTube](#)

Instagram

Follow us @fofwos20

Contact details

If you would like to get involved, please contact Suzanne, our Chair, at fofwos@gmail.com or use the Contact form on the website [Contact Us](#)

You can unsubscribe from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com and we will delete your contact details.

Website: fofwos.org

Email: fofwos@gmail.com

Phone: 07496 471659.

The phone is only monitored on Sunday mornings when there is a work party but leave a message and we will respond.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you soon.

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Richard Bartholomew, JP Sweny