



Newsletter: September 2023

The autumn volunteering sessions will be 24th September, 8th & 29th October and 12th & 26th November 2023. Posters with the dates are on the gates.

Over the autumn meetings we will be planting bulbs. See below for more information. Do come along and help.

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New information boards

In support of the objective to:

‘advance the education of the public in Finchley in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment’

the trustees secured funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to replace the information boards with something sturdier.

These two cover birds, insects and animals. The plan is to have a third board about trees and other plants.

They can be seen at the entrance to the Copse at the bottom of the Field, opposite the Finchley Way entrance.

If you would like to help fund a third board on trees and plants, please see the last page of this newsletter for details on how to donate.



The treasurer (Karen) and Chair (Suzanne) with two of the new boards and the cheque from the National Lottery Community Fund with thanks for the funding



Bug house with information board, with thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund

Volunteers will be adding the other boards on the log piles and the compost heap soon. These were also funded by the Lottery Community Fund. There will be photos in the next newsletter in December.

New Fencing

If you've visited the Orchard part of the site in the last month or so you will have seen the new wicker fencing.

This is to protect the seedlings from marauders until they are established, which is going to take about four years.

Feedback from visitors suggests it's popular. It can be removed once the plants have become established.

We are grateful to Barnet Council's East Area Committee for funding for the wildflowers and the protective fencing and improvements to the paths in the Orchard, all shown below.



Protective fencing



Protective fencing

Wildflower planting

When choosing what to plant we have stuck to native plants. While there is some need to adapt to climate change in our planting, the main aim is to improve the biodiversity of the site. Native species are tuned to feed on native plants. There is science behind this.

The UV rays given off from native plants are different from those given off by non-native species and native insects, bees, etc. recognise the UV rays from native plants but not those from non-natives.

We hope to learn more about this in the future.



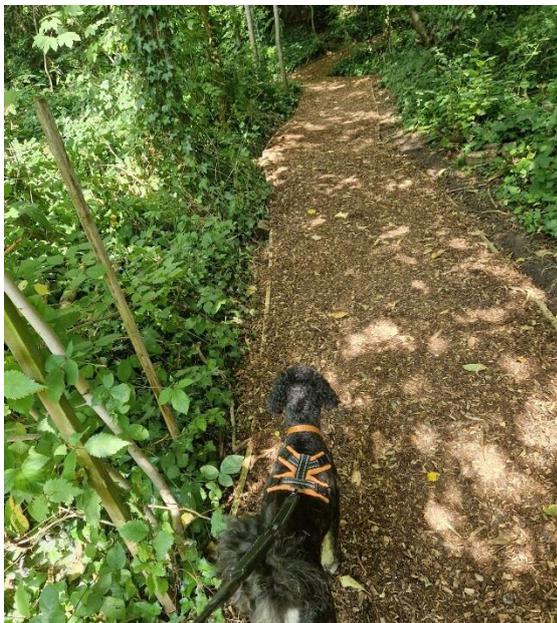
The wildflowers are coming along

Over the next few years, the planting will thicken. After this, we may need to top up the seeds. It depends on how it develops.

Improved paths

Better path edging has been installed in the Orchard and the haphazard logs and sticks removed.

The big logs have been used to make better edging in the Copse. The smaller branches and sticks will be kept and used to create new dead hedges and top-up existing dead hedges.



Improved paths in the Orchard



The Copse with log edging

Bulb planting

At the volunteer sessions this autumn we will be planting bulbs.

All are native British versions or have been nativized by being here for a couple of hundred years or more.

We have around 800 bulbs on order.

The bulbs include:

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone Nemorosa*), Wild Tulips (*Tulipa Sylvestris*), Snakeshead Fritillary (*Fritillaria Meleagris*), Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) and Yellow Rattle Seeds.

Some things are not available until spring when we will order bulbs in the green meaning that they've been lifted in early spring while still in active growth and then sold ready to be replanted straight away with the stem still attached.

We will also be ordering some small plants in spring.

There will be lots to do, so do come along and help. Then watch for your bulbs to come up in spring next year.

Open Day

The trustees organised an open day in August for Friends and other members of the community to come along and see what's been achieved and learn about the history of the site and chip in ideas.



A trustee showing people round

About the charity

Get involved

We welcome new Friends. Membership is free and ensures that you receive the quarterly newsletter.

Or come along and volunteer at a work session on the second or last Sunday in the month. Less often in the winter.

You don't have to volunteer to be a Friend and you don't need to be a Friend to volunteer.

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 at [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 fofwos@gmail.com.

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

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

Check out our website for back issues of the [newsletter](#).

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

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Nick Dimant

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.

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](#)

OR come along to a work party meeting - second and last Sundays in the month March-November, less often in the winter. The dates are posted on the gates and on the website.

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