



## Newsletter: January 2022

Welcome to the first edition of 2022  
Happy New Year!

Please note that the next work party is 30<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30 - 12.30

If you have time, you can always go along and do some litter picking before then. Pickers and bags can be provided - just email [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) Thank you!

### In this issue:

- New trees in the Orchard
- Key findings from the annual consultation
- Shrubs for the Orchard - planting will start soon

### New trees in the Orchard

The big news is that the four trees funded by the Spacehive crowdfunding campaign were planted on 15<sup>th</sup> December by professional contractors.



A contractor planting the Alder

In the end the trustees took advice from Barnet Council's Tree Section and several other tree experts and decided to buy an Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), a cherry (*Prunus kanza*), a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and a White Willow (*Salix alba*).

This mix will diversify the trees on the site and help to draw-in a wider variety of birds and animals.

The advice also recommended buying semi-mature trees. These are big enough to make an immediate impact but still young enough to adapt well to new surroundings.



From left to right: Alder, Cherry



From left to right: Willow, Rowan

They don't photograph well without any leaves but this is the best time to plant trees. We'll have to wait a few months to see their true beauty.

Go along and have a look.

We have also bought the care package which means that they will be maintained for two years.

The trustees felt that having spent a considerable amount of money on the trees this would be the best way to ensure that they thrive.

There's no knowing what will happen in the next two years, what volunteers there will be and what skills they will have.

Thanks again to everyone who donated.

## Dead hedge

Now that the entrance to the Orchard by the wall is open again volunteers have made the screening off of the knotweed area more attractive.



New dead hedge screening off the knotweed area

A dead hedge provides habitat for insects and beetles as well as a rich feeding ground for small mammals such as hedgehogs.

It's also a good way to use trimmings from around the site. As they bed down the filling can be topped-up, continually using cuttings.

Maybe this is an idea for your garden?

Please don't enter the screened off area. It's important not to spread the knotweed to other areas. It is treated every year but we still need to be careful.



Volunteers happy with a job well done

## Annual consultation

The annual consultation survey closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The key finding is that the site needs to retain the tranquil, wild and natural feel, while the paths are kept tidy.

Some areas will be left wild. What looks untidy to us is loved by wildlife which can forage, hibernate and nest in untidy piles of wood and leaf and dead trees.

There was also a request for seats but the consultation opened before the three benches were put in the Orchard. There will also be two seats installed on the Green Field soon.

The small number of responses suggests that visitors are content with the way the site is progressing.

But feel free to email [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) at any time if you have comments, suggestions or questions or want to get involved.

## Ideas for planting

We will soon be starting to plant shrubs in the Orchard where the membrane is currently helping to kill off the brambles.

Current thinking is to include some dogwoods, buddleias, grasses, common spindles, elderberries, guelder roses, clematis and lilacs.

The intention is to bring colour and interest plus nesting and feeding for insects, birds and small mammals.

Most people know that buddleias are great for butterflies but based on information on the Woodland Trust website:

- **Dogwood** leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of some moths, including the case-bearer moth. The flowers are visited by insects and the berries are eaten by many mammals and birds;

- **Clematis** flowers are visited by pollinating insects during the day, such as bees and hoverflies. Traveller's joy is also a food plant for moth species such as the chalk carpet moth (*Melanthia procellata*); the small waved umber (*Horisme vitalbata*); the small emerald (*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*) and others. The seedheads also provide food for birds, such as goldfinches;
- **Common spindles'** leaves are eaten by caterpillars of moths, including the magpie, spindle ermine and scorched, as well as the holly blue butterfly. The leaves attract aphids and their predators, including hoverflies, ladybirds and lacewings, as well as house sparrows and other species of bird. The flowers are a rich source of nectar and pollen for insects such as the St Mark's fly.

## Volunteering Days

Don't forget that work parties no longer take place every Sunday. Dates are on the entrance gates and on the website. The next work party is 30<sup>th</sup> January.

If you have time to litter pick before then, please do. Pickers and bags are available from [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com)

## January trustee meeting

The quarterly Board meeting for trustees was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January. The minutes of the last meeting held in October were approved, so they have been added to the website.

We agreed to have an event in the summer to launch the renovated site. The date will be confirmed soon and information will be in the next newsletter.

## 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 [Donate to FoFWOS](#).

FoFWOS accepts donations via [PayPal Giving Fund](#), [GoFundMe](#) and [CAF](#)

FoFWOS is registered for Gift Aid. Download the form from the website donate page or contact Karen, our Treasurer, at [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com)

If you use Amazon please consider switching to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://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.

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

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

Go to the website for back issues of the newsletter and information about the site.

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**Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you next year.**

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Toby Levy and Arlette Garcia

### Facebook

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

### YouTube

The YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look at [Friends of Finchley Way Open Space - YouTube](#)

### Instagram

Follow us @fofwos20

There are also links available from the footer on our website.

### Contact details

If you would like to get involved, please contact Suzanne, our Chair, at [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) and we will delete your contact details.

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Phone: 07496 471659.

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