



Newsletter: Spring 2025

The next work session is Sunday 11th May 2025, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. All you need is a willingness to pitch-in. Volunteers are supported by trustees.

The dates of future volunteering sessions are on the gates and on the website.

In this issue

New trustee	About the charity
New planting	How to get involved
Wildflowers	• How to donate
Tree labels	• How to contact the Trustees
Annual consultation results	

New trustee

The Trustees are delighted to announce that George Karaolis has joined the Board of Trustees with an effective date of 22nd April 2025. Like all trustees now, he is appointed for three years, with the possibility of being re-elected for a further three years. After six years trustees must stand down for at least a year.



George says: I have always lived near the Open Space and have many fond memories as a child playing football there.

It's incredible how much the volunteers have achieved in The Orchard and The Copse.

I volunteer as I believe it's important to ensure that it continues to thrive as a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy and it's also great to meet new people from the local area.

If you would like to join the Board, please get in touch. Contact details at the end of this newsletter.

New planting

The newly planted area is coming along. We've had to do extra watering as March was so dry but April has been wetter.

The hellebores are doing very well. (See photo on the next page)



The willow that looked dead and unhealthy has sprung to life - just goes to show - never give up!



The old apple tree is doing well and has lots of flowers.



Wildflowers

The wildflowers are not out yet but volunteers have been looking after them and they should be out soon.

Tree labels

Now that the leaves are coming out, one of each type of tree will have a label on it so that visitors can match the descriptions on the information board in the Field by the entrance to the Copse, with the actual tree. These are funded by Barnet Council.

Some trees from a previous funding round already have names on them.

Annual Consultation

Every year the trustees of the Friends of Finchley Way Open Space charity conduct a consultation with neighbours and visitors to ensure that visitors and local residents have their say in how the site develops.

The land is owned by Barnet Council so the work the charity does has to be agreed with the Greenspaces and Tree teams. Both have been very supportive of our ideas.

The questionnaire link was distributed by email to all Friends on 21st October 2024 and closed on 30th November 2024. There was also a link on the FoFWOS website and posters on the gates with details of how take part. All responses are anonymous.

About the respondents

The majority of respondents (22) were Friends a further 14 were Friends and volunteered.

Most (38) of the respondents were aged 50 or over, only 2 were under 30. Thirty-two were women and 21 were men.

The majority of respondents (39) like that the site is within a short walk of their home. Most lived within five minutes' walk of the site (42) and almost all of the rest within lived five to 15 minutes' walk (11). None came from further away.

Four respondents went to the site every day and 11 went more than once a week but not every day. Twenty-two said that they went less than once a week but more than once a month. Nine went less than once a month and two had never been to the site.

Visiting

Over half of the respondents (35) said that they went to the site because *'it's somewhere to go that's quiet, calm, peaceful, natural'*. Some 27 go for fresh air and 13 to get out of the house/flat. Fourteen said that they went to walk their dog. Thirteen go to spend time with their partner or friends and 11 take their children.

It is also used as a cut-through by 11 respondents.

One of the write-in comments points out that: *'too many people will take the charm away'*.

The majority of respondents (29) said that they go to the site alone, with a further 30 going only with other adults (aged 18 and over). Twenty-eight went with children.

The majority of respondents (44) visit the whole site when they go; four go only to the Green Field.

The most popular reason for going to the site was because it is close to home (39). For 39 it was somewhere nice to walk and 37 said that they went because it is a haven for wildlife. The same number (37) said that they went because it was tidy and well cared for.

Other reasons for visiting the site were: for the trees, shrubs and flowers (42), because there are nice paths (30), it's a good design (36) and it feels safe (18).

Of the 42 respondents who answered the question on dislikes, 26 said they

had none. Nine respondents said that the site did not feel safe but this is against the 18 who said that they liked the site because it felt safe.

Respondents were asked what they would like to see changed or added to this site. The most common comment was to see more planting (21), while 12 wanted more seating and seven more information about the history of the site, the plants, and wildlife.

Some respondents (3) mentioned better paths for disabled access. Four respondents said that they have a disability that affects how they enjoy the site.

Volunteering

Over half of the respondents (30) had never volunteered but nine volunteer regularly. People volunteer because they live near the site (19) and because they are interested in the environment (16). A few (6) come to meet people.

The main barriers to volunteering are other commitments (20), lack of time (16) and ill health (7). Five people said that the tasks are not suitable for them or their children.

Conclusions

This year there were a few notable differences. In particular fewer Friends responded than in previous years and more others.

More respondents went with children and more went more frequently. There was an increase in the number saying there was good design but also more saying that it did not feel safe.

The trustees take on board comments but where this isn't possible the FAQ page of the website tries to address concerns. See: [FoFWOS | FAQs](#)

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. The dates are posted on the gates and on the website.

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 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](#)

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 our Chair, at fofwos@gmail.com or use the Contact form on the website [Contact Us](#)

OR come along to a work session - See [Get Involved](#) above.

We are always pleased to hear from Friends.

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

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, Alan Douglas, Arlette Garcia.