



Newsletter: September 2021

Welcome to the September 2021 edition of our newsletter.

Since the last newsletter a lot has happened.

First, thanks to 74 people who backed our Spacehive crowdfunding campaign. We've moved quickly to order the trees and the removable hand water pump.

The information board has been installed at the Finchley Way entrance with the story of the site since 1448. Do go and have a look.

We have started planting with the reinstatement of a fernery.

Thanks to those of you who have switched to Smile Amazon - funds are accumulating.

Please note that we have revised our Privacy Policy. The policy can be found [here](#) or contact us by [email](#) for a copy.

Interpretation board

The interpretation board has been installed at the Finchley Way entrance.



Interpretation board being installed by Iris Garden Services

The board welcomes people to the site and tells a little of the history as well as how to get involved and how to donate.

If this whets your appetite to know more about the history click [here](#)
History of FoFWOS

Hopefully more people will now realise that the site is open to all and come and enjoy it.



Interpretation board inside the Finchley Way entrance, designed by a volunteer and made by DAB Graphics Ltd.

The Fernery

At last we have done some planting. Two trustees donated some self-seeded ferns from their garden. The 1907 sale documents list a fernery. We don't have a map, only a list of the content of the garden, so we have put the ferns where we think they will do best. Maybe the original fernery is under Fernbank Nursing Home?



The beginnings of the new Fernery

Soil test

Two of our young Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers helped with a soil test in the Orchard and Copse areas.

They found that the soil has a PH of 6/7. Fortunately this means that the soil is fairly neutral and suitable for a wide range of plants.

Tree work

Barnet tree section gave us a couple of days of a tree contractor. The main work has been to clear around one of the oak trees in the Orchard and an old yew tree in the Copse to give them more space to flourish. In the case of the yew tree it will enable visitors to appreciate this splendid tree, which was almost completely hidden by self-seeded trees.

There was also some general tidying of decaying and dead trees, although dead trees can be useful habitat, so a number have been kept.

We are especially pleased to have so many English oaks on the site. English oak trees support more wildlife than any other native tree. According to the Woodland Trust, oak forests are hosts to hundreds of insect species, providing food and habitat.

The wood chip has been used to resurface the paths.



A young oak now has room to grow in the Orchard

Fruit trees

Thanks to a Friend who works at the Royal Horticultural Society we have been able to identify that the big apple tree in the Orchard that is currently loaded with apples is a Blenheim Orange, which is a heritage variety.

The apples are cooking apples now but those that remain on the tree for another few weeks will turn ripe enough to eat uncooked.

Based on the size of the trunk, it is estimated that the tree is about 100 years old and it should last for another few decades yet. If only it could talk to tell us more about the history of the site.



Blenheim Orange apple tree, probably 100 years old

Getting ready for (more) planting

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Spacehive crowdfunding campaign which is funding trees and a pump.

We slightly overshot our target but we will receive the additional money.

Water

Accessing the water in the well will help to ensure that the new plants thrive. It is on order and should arrive in the next couple of weeks.

Trees

We have ordered the trees - two hazels, a cherry, a field maple and a hornbeam. We got a good deal on the trees by ordering through Barnet Council so we have ordered two hazel trees, rather than just one, to make a hedge. This will shield off a sharp change in levels between the Copse and the Orchard.

The trees will not be planted until after Christmas but we will be preparing the areas in the next few months.

Shrubs and flowers

The central area of the Orchard has now been cleared and membrane laid, ready for planting trees, shrubs and bulbs this autumn/winter.

We are starting to clear another small area in the Orchard that gets the sun. We'll plant some for winter flowering wildflowers.

The Wall

Along the brick wall has been cleared for scaffolding so that the wall can be made safe.

Once this is done the entrance to the Orchard by the wall that has been closed for some time will be reopened. This will make a more pleasant walk round the site.

We hope to plant along the cleared strip once the work on the wall is finished.



One of the trustees holding up the wall!

About the charity

We now have a leaflet to give to passers-by on Sundays and to new neighbours to get them involved. Let us know if you'd like a few copies.

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](#).

We accept donations via [PayPal Giving Fund](#) and [GoFundMe](#).

We are registered for Gift Aid. Download the form from the website donate page or contact Karen, our Treasurer, at fofwos@gmail.com

If you use Amazon please consider switching to smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Friends of Finchley Way Open Space as your charity. We 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 our website. It will generate some commission for FoFWOS on every sale.

Donations can be made direct by bank transfer to:

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

Thank you for your support

Contributors - Suzanne King and Karen Goodman



Sort Code: 01-06-28

Account Name: Friends of Finchley Way Open Space

Account number: 44189184

Facebook

We have an open Facebook [page](#) and a closed [group](#).

YouTube

Our YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look at [Friend 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 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.

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Leave a message, we will respond.