



Newsletter: Spring 2024

PLEASE NOTE: The next session is Sunday 24th March 2024.

This is because the last Sunday in March is Easter Sunday. After that we're back to normal with the second and last Sundays in the month until the 8th December 2024.

We may arrange some extra sessions depending on plans and some may be cancelled if the weather is very bad or indeed too hot!

The dates are on the gates and on the website.

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Spring flowering

Spring is coming to Finchley Way Open Space. Come and see for yourself. More flowers are coming every day now.



Flowering cherry



Acer coming into bud



Lesser celandine



Wood anemones

2023 Consultation

Every year the trustees of the Friends of Finchley Way Open Space charity conduct a consultation with neighbours and visitors.

Thanks to everyone who has completed this year's consultation questionnaire. Here's a summary of the findings.

We have posted responses to some of the comments on the Frequently Asked Questions pages of the website. These can be found [here](#). The full report is also on the website [here](#).

Please bear in mind that the land is owned by Barnet Council and the trustees have to agree plans for the site with the Council.

Introduction

There were 55 responses, which means that presenting the findings as percentages is inappropriate; raw numbers are given instead.

Visiting

The majority of respondents (42) like that the site is within a short walk of their home.

None went to the site every day. Twenty-five said that they went less than once a week but more than once a month. Two had never visited.

Over half of the respondents (33) said that they went to the site because *'it's somewhere to go that's quiet, calm, peaceful, natural'*.

Nineteen respondents said they go for fresh air and five to get out of the house/flat. Eighteen used it as a cut through. Ten said that they went to walk their dog.

The majority of respondents (30) said that they go to the site alone, 20 only go with other adults (aged 18 and over). Twenty went with children.

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

The most popular reason for going to the site was because it is close to home (42). For 40 it was somewhere nice to walk and 38 said that they went because it is a haven for wildlife. The same number (38) said that they went because it was tidy and well cared for. Other reasons for visiting were: for the trees, shrubs and flowers (43), nice paths (32), it's a design (30) and it feels safe (19).

Likes and dislikes

Five respondents said that the site did not feel safe but this is against the 19 who said that they liked the site because it felt safe. Three respondents said that there is nothing to see or do.

Changes

Respondents were asked what they would like to see changed or added to this site. About a third (18) wanted to see more planting, while 10 wanted more seating and 12 wanted more information about the history of the site, the plants, and wildlife.

Some respondents (8) mentioned better paths for disabled access.

Three 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 11 volunteer regularly. People volunteer because they live near the site (19) and because they are interested in the environment (16). A few (7) come to meet people.

The main barriers to volunteering are other commitments (19), lack of time (18) and ill health (6).

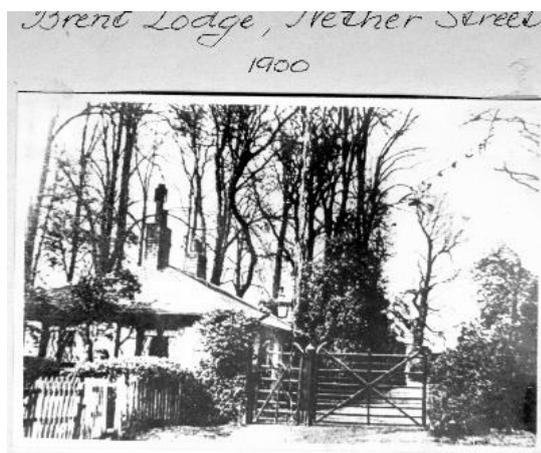
We plan to continue to run a consultation every year but the trustees have decided to discontinue the annual Friends meeting due to the exceptionally low attendance.

History of the site

One of our supporters has given us some photos of the area from 1900.

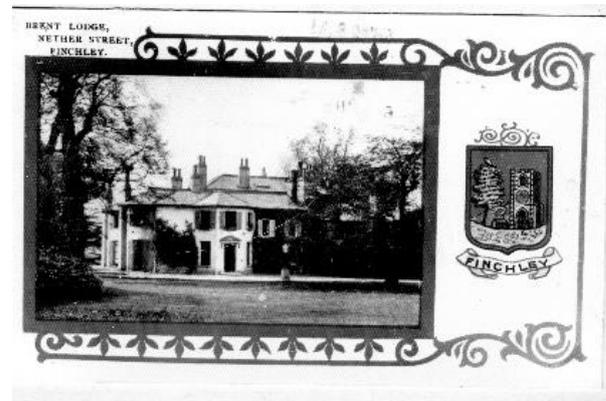
The photo below is the small bungalow, now burnt out and derelict, at the junction of Finchley Way and Nether Street, in 1900.

It was one of two lodges at the entrance to the Brent Lodge estate.



Lodge at entrance to Brent Lodge estate

We have now established that the second lodge was somewhere near the current site of Chilvins Court on Nether Street. As yet there is no information about this building or when it was demolished.



Brent Lodge, on the raised area of the Field, demolished 1961/2

More on the history of the site [here](#)

Asian hornet

You may have seen the signs on site about the Asian hornet. It is an invasive predator that is harmful to native wildlife, especially honeybees.



If you see any, please report as soon as you can. To find out more and how to report sightings click [here](#)

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, Catherin Delano Smith

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.

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