



Newsletter: September 2022

The next volunteering sessions will be 25th September and 9th and 30th October.

Dates for later volunteering days are in the newsletter below.

Thanks to everyone who has donated over the summer

If you have donated and are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid form on the website. This way we can claim the tax back and get an extra 25p for every £1 you donated, so a £10 donation becomes £12.50 without it costing you anymore.

Click [here](#) for the form. You don't have to complete a new form every time you donate. This lasts for four years and can be retrospective. So, if you have ever donated, please complete the form.

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Next issue: December 2022

Rare moth in the Orchard

We start with our most exciting piece of news, that a fairly rare, day flying moth, the Jersey Tiger, (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) was spotted in the Orchard last month. It was resting on a nettle leaf on one of those very hot days.

Though common on the continent and more recently in the Channel Islands and part of Devon, it seems to be migrating north, possibly because of climate change. In the last 10 years it has been spotted in the Isle of Wight, along the south coast and in and around London, including Hertfordshire.



Jersey Tiger, (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*)

Watering

There were additional watering sessions over the summer because it was very dry, as you will know.

The well was dry at times but it filled up even without any rain, so we were able to keep watering and keep the trees, shrubs and whips alive.

The established plants survived well and next year this planting should be able to sustain itself through dry patches.



Fencing

The fence round the site has been replaced and new gates and closures are now in place. Thanks to Barnet Council for the extra funding



Fence along Hamilton Way



Fence along Finchley Way

Blenheim Orange

This apple tree is prolific this year. It's grown so much we've had to cut it back from growing over the wall and the weight of the apples was so great that a branch snapped and we had to cut the branch off. Those apples wouldn't have ripened and it was potentially dangerous.



Apples ripening on the Blenheim Orange

The apples will be ripe in a couple of weeks for cooking. Left a little longer and they should be good to eat. People are already taking them for apple vinegar. Please come along and help yourself.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have had quite a few young people volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering section. If you know someone who is going to be doing DofE Award, let them know about our volunteering opportunities.

Volunteering

Most of the volunteers come from the immediate local area. Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbours.

Future dates are:

- 25th September
- 9th and 30th October
- 13th and 27th November
- 11th December - short session and Christmas 'party'

In January and February, we will only meet on the second Sundays in the month.



Litter picking in the Orchard

The Future

After much consideration, debate and research the trustees have agreed to cover the membraned area in the Orchard with a soil mix suitable for growing wildflowers and other native plants.

Three of the trustees had a field trip to visit John Little of the Grass Roof Company

He's a garden designer with a plot in south Essex and despite the name of the company, he is an expert on planting on derelict sites.

He has experimented with different materials on which to plant flowers and other plants to encourage and support diverse wildlife. We are extremely grateful to him for his advice.

This is the look we're aiming for.



Green Roof Company, Stanford Le Hope

Removing the membrane would allow the bramble to re-establish itself as it runs underground from other bramble around the site, as well as seeding from the fruit. The observant among you will already have seen how it is popping-up around the edges where membrane sheets meet the log edging.

The trustees therefore concluded that removing the membrane is not the best idea as it would create too much work that would be ongoing.

We also plan to build bug boxes and other areas to support insect life.



Insect house, Walthamstow Wetlands

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 [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, at fofwos@gmail.com.

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

If you use Amazon, please consider switching to 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.

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.

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

Get involved

We welcome new Friends and volunteers. You don't have to volunteer to be a Friend and you don't need to be a Friend to volunteer.

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](#)

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

Phone: 07496 471659.

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

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

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Richard Bartholomew, Toby Levy, Greg Brown