



Newsletter: March 2022

Please note that the next work party is 13th March, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Moving forward!

Things are really moving on now. Volunteers started planting shrubs in the Orchard at the end of February. They look a bit spindly at the moment but they will settle in and develop into an excellent display and are good for wildlife.

More planting to come.

In this issue:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storm Eunice• Planting in the Orchard• Spring is springing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The wall• Volunteering dates• About us |
|--|--|

Storm Eunice

Storm Eunice caused some damage in the Copse. It brought down several trees and some smaller self-seeded saplings, along with breaking ivy off of some of the trees.



Fortunately, there wasn't any damage in the Orchard or any other part of the site. All the newly planted trees survived unscathed.



Some of the volunteers came along on Sunday 20th February for an hour or so to clear the paths.



Quite a lot of litter had blown in and older rubbish had been uncovered.

Many of the trees in the Copse look to be about the same age and species and it seems that they are coming to the end of their lives. The 1907 sale documents mention a Copse, so it seems likely that it was planted by earlier owners. This would suggest that some of the mature trees are of a similar age with smaller self-seeded saplings having grown up while the site was neglected.

The trustees hope to have a tree survey. From this, a scheme to remove and replace the trees over a number of years can be developed. This will allow the look of the Copse to be maintained while ensuring that it continues to thrive and delight.

Planting the Orchard

Thanks to a grant from the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee planting of shrubs in the Orchard has begun.

The weather for the last volunteering day in February was glorious and 17 volunteers came along.



Volunteers planting in the Orchard

The membrane has allowed the soil to rejuvenate and given time for the brambles to die back. Eventually it will be removed to allow birds and animals to grub in the soil for worms and other food.

In total we planted 23 plants:

- 3 Cornus alba 'Sibirica'
- 5 Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'
- 5 Cornus stolonifera 'Flaviramea'
- 3 Ilex meserveae 'Heckenfee'
- 2 Lonicera henryi 'Copper Beauty'
- 2 Syringa v. 'Beauty of Moscow'
- 3 Viburnum opulus 'Roseum'

All were chosen because of their benefit to wildlife.

The plan is to plant more, especially wildflowers, to create a diverse habitat.

Regular tidying and weeding will keep volunteers busy though.

Planting in the Green Field

The cherry tree that was donated by **Wilson Lloyd Landscaping** was also planted by volunteers.

It was planted on the Green Field close to one of the new benches, right opposite the Finchley Way entrance. In bloom it will make a stunning welcome to the site.



Planting the cherry tree

Spring is springing

Back at the end of October we planted over 1700 bulbs across the site. Some are starting to show through. Next year they will be even better as they settle in and mature.



The first bulbs appear

The wall in the Copse

The wall in the Copse is still being repaired by the Council, making the wall safe all around the site. Work had to stop during the cold spell because they are using lime mortar.

While the plan is to make a planted walkway along the wall in the Orchard, we will leave the path through the Copse as it is, keeping it away from the wall.



Part of the repaired wall

A document received from HADAS (Hendon and District Archaeology Society) reveals that the wall was built between 1810 and 1830.

Archaeology Data Service

Brent Lodge (demolished in 1962 but formerly on what is now the top part of the Green Field) was built in 1810, so it seems likely that the wall was built at the same time.

From the maps and descriptions of the site that the trustees hold, it seems likely that the wall enclosed the kitchen gardens at the rear of the house. Indeed, the history of Cedar Court states that it was built on part of one of the sunken kitchen gardens of Brent Lodge.

For more on the history of the site see [History of FoFWOS](#)

Dates for your diary: Volunteering Days

Don't forget that work parties no longer take place every Sunday. Dates are on the gates.

The next work party is 13th March.

For the rest of the spring, summer and autumn volunteering days will be the second and last Sundays in the month.

- 13th and 27th March
- 10th and 24th April
- 8th and 29th May
- 12th and 26th June
- 10th and 31st July
- 14th and 28th August
- 11th and 25th September
- 9th and 30th October

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](#).

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

FoFWOS is registered for Gift Aid. The form can be filled in online [here](#) or we can send you a copy by email 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. 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.

Facebook

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

YouTube

The YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look at [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 now 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 and Karen Goodman