



Newsletter: May 2021

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. We have at last been able to work on the site and have more volunteers coming along to our regular Sunday morning sessions – 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. Some young people doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award have also joined us for their volunteering section.

We have launched our crowdfunding project on Barnet Spacehive to raise money for 4 mature trees and a hand pump. See below for how to donate.

Crowdfunding project

So that visitors can start to see the Orchard taking shape we've launched a crowdfunding project to raise money for 4 mature trees and a removable hand pump. We're asking Friends to pledge to the project. Details of how to do this below.

If the pledges add up to less than our target of £4,742.00, none of the money is collected.

So, please help by pledging at www.spacehive.com/wildlifewonderland



These are the trees that we are planning to buy, clockwise from top right, Hazel, Hornbeam, Field Maple, Cherry.

The more pledges we get the more likely we are to get an extra donation from Barnet, who will decide which projects to fund on 3 June.

To pledge money go to spacehive.com/wildlifewonderland, click on the yellow bar and make your pledge. You can pledge anonymously but we'd love to know who you are. You will need to create a Spacehive account. The minimum pledge is £2.

If you don't want to pledge through Spacehive you can send us the money direct (details on how to do this at the end) and we will add your donation. However, you won't get your money back if we don't make the total but it will go towards buying the pump and the trees. We'll buy as many trees as we can.

If you donate via Spacehive and wish to include Gift Aid, you will be asked for the relevant details when we meet our target, as the money isn't collected unless we meet the target.

If you donate direct, please download the Gift Aid form from the Donate page of our website.

Please tell your relatives, friends and neighbours.

If you want to know more, please get in touch. Contact details at the end.

Progress!



Giving the fruit trees room to breathe

After so many months of not being able to work on the site because of Covid-19 restrictions, our first three work parties have been very successful.

Local residents have been working hard on the site but there's a lot to do, so we had a bit of a campaign to get more people interested in joining us. We registered with Barnet Volunteering and that has brought in more people to help us achieve our plans.

Good Gym continues to support us with some of their members coming every week.

If you'd like to get involved in the physical work, please come along and join in but let us know in advance so that we can plan the work. Contact details at the end.

We meet every Sunday morning at 10.30 am, finishing around 12.30 pm. Use the entrance in Finchley Way, N3 1AH.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have some young people working towards their Silver DoE award with their parents on the site. They are constructing a path through the Orchard, starting by making edging for the paths. Once they have progressed further we will be getting more wood chip to finish the paths.



Duke of Edinburgh Award students trimming trees to make edging for the paths

Spring on the site



A bluebell glade is take root



Lilac is sprouting



Buttercups and daisies

Getting involved

There are lots of ways to get involved and help transform this area.

We have a volunteer working with us to refresh our website but we still need someone to take this on more permanently. It's probably a couple of hours a month around the 12th of each month to upload the newsletter and tidy-up any other bits and pieces.

A locally based graphic designer and a museum exhibitions consultant have been working with us to design an interpretation board that will be placed near to the main entrance on Finchley Way. It will tell the history of the place with a sketch map to show people the scale of the site and the vision for the future. There will be a QR code link to our website where visitors can find out more.

So if you have other skills that you think might be useful or want to learn more, please get in touch. Contact details at the end.

Birds and animals

Thanks to one of our trustees CJ Wildlife has provided us with two boards about the birds and animals you might see on the site.



Our Chair with the new boards

Children

We want to include children in making the site a haven for wildlife but we need someone who can develop activities for younger children (roughly 5-12 years old). They could build stag beetle homes, insect boxes and help plant bulbs and seeds, among other things.

At the moment there is a lot of cutting and pruning going on at the Sunday work parties in the Orchard, so activities for younger children could take place on Saturdays or on the Green Field or in the Copse on Sundays.

Please get in touch if you can help. You must be DBS checked.

Tools

Thanks to a number of people and organisations we now have a good selection of tools for our volunteers.

Our successful bid to the Lottery Community Fund included money for tools.

Thanks are due also to Martyn Gerrard and some local residents who contributed to our tools fund.

Thanks as well to Finchley Nurseries who gave us a discount on a bulk purchase of tools, to Selco's Southgate branch who generously donated tools and to the Cricklewood branch that also gave us a discount.

Barnet Council also provide some equipment and take away the rubbish.

Donate

Don't forget, if you buy bird food, feeders, etc., please use this link to CJ Wildlife that is also on our website http://www.birdfood.co.uk/tt/?tt=654412_400593_&r=%2F.

It will generate some commission for FoFWOS on every sale.

Donations can be made either by contacting us at FOFWOS@gmail.com or by bank transfer to:

Sort Code: 01-06-28
Account Name: Friends of Finchley Way Open Space
Account number: 44189184

We are now registered for Gift Aid so that we can reclaim tax on donations. You can download the form from the Donate page of our website or contact us for a form.

We can now also accept donations via [Donate with PayPal Giving Fund](#) and GoFundMe [Fundraiser by Karen Goodman: Help to make a wildlife haven in West Finchley \(gofundme.com\)](#). This link takes you straight to the donation page.

All money raised goes to support the purchase of plants, equipment, facilities for the site and to fund work that cannot be undertaken by volunteers. All administration and organisation is done by volunteers.

Contact details

You can **unsubscribe** from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com. You can request that all your details and email history be deleted at any time.

Website: www.fofwos.org

Email: fofwos@gmail.com

Phone: 07496471659.

It's not permanently monitored, so please leave a message.

Our Facebook Page and Instagram can now be accessed from our website: www.fofwos.org

Thank you for your support

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