



Newsletter: Winter 2025

The next work session is Sunday 11th January 2026, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. All you need is a willingness to pitch-in. Volunteers are supported by trustees.

The dates of future volunteering sessions are on the gates and on the website. Usually, the second and last Sundays in the month but only once in January, February and December

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Annual consultation

Thanks to everyone who took part in the annual consultation. The results will be published in a future newsletter and will appear on the website in due course.

Departing trustees

Three of the founding trustees are stepping down at the end of their terms this December. Richard Bartholomew and Samuel Levy, although both will continue to volunteer, and Chair, Suzanne King.

All can stand for re-election after a one-year break.

Goodbye from the Chair

After more than six years of being involved with Friends of Finchley Way Open Space, including setting it up as a charity, I am handing over the reins.

Making the site what it is has been very much a team effort.

The team starts with **Augustus Cooper** who bequeathed the site to Finchley Borough Council on his death in 1939.



Unfortunately, we don't have a photo or any likeness of him and know very little about his life, other than that he was a watchmaker.

The idea of protecting what is now Finchley Way Open Space was born as part of developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

In the summer of 2019, **Roger Chapman** (Chair of Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley) held a meeting of Friends groups in Barnet. At the end of that meeting **Alan Douglas** and I decided to start a Friends group for the open space.

We designed and had printed a leaflet and delivered it to addresses within about 0.4km of the site.

It invited residents to a meeting at **Finchley Lawn Tennis Club** on 19 December 2019. (They kindly let us meet there free of charge.) At that meeting a committee was elected and a constitution agreed.

By February 2020 **Karen Goodman** had become Treasurer and later **Nick Dimant** became Deputy Chair and the Executive Committee team was formed.

In mid-2020, **Matt Gunyon** (Head of Greenspaces and Trees at Barnet) suggested that the Friends group become a charity as this would enable access to a wider range of financial support.

In December 2020 Friends of Finchley Way was registered as a charity.

I'm leaving the charity in good hands with six trustees continuing and three new trustees this year.

There are also about a dozen volunteers who come regularly. You don't have to be a trustee or to have any knowledge of gardening to join in. Jobs vary in the level of physical ability needed.

New trustees

We welcome as new trustees Peter Fielding and Pours Panthakee. Information about all the trustees can be found on the website [Meet the Trustees](#)

Peter Fielding

I have lived in this area of Finchley for 40 years; originally in Hamilton Way and then Brent Way.



Over these years the open space has been a source of mystery and interest to me. I think it is beneficial for the wellbeing of the community - somewhere we can meet and enjoy the fresh air and each other's company.

Pours Panthakee



I have lived in Brent Way for the last 25 years and until recently, never appreciated that we have such a wonderful green and wooded area behind the visible Finchley Way Open Space, on our doorstep.

I am delighted to make my own small contribution through volunteering to make this a better place for the benefit of all our fellow WF residents and through this, to connect with more people who live in our neighbourhood.

New planting

There has been more planting in the new area and some of the plants that had grown taller than expected have been moved to the top of the field.



Wildflowers

The wildflowers have been cut down and the seeds shaken out. It all looks rather barren at the moment but the area is resting ready to flower in the spring and summer. More seeds have been sewn to top-up and ensure a good showing.



Fungi

A remarkable number of fungi have been seen on the site.



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. The dates are posted on the gates and on the website.

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 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](#)

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, Evelyn Monteiro.

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.

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 our Chair, at fofwos@gmail.com or use the Contact form on the website [Contact Us](#)

OR come along to a work session - See [Get Involved](#) above.

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