



Newsletter: March 2023

Now the better weather is coming the plants are coming to life and volunteering is back to twice a month. The second and last Sundays in the month. The dates are on the gates and the website.

The next volunteering sessions are 26th March and 9th and 30th April 2023

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Charitable objective

The charity's main objective is to support biodiversity by planting native and near native plants. In the Orchard and the Copse, we are trying to keep to this.

But the trustees feel that on the Green Field there can be a wider variety of plants to bring colour to the area.

Up-date

For those of you who don't visit the site very often and even those of you who do, here's an up-date on what's been happening.

The bulbs planted in the autumn of 2021 across the site are starting to come out. Over time they will spread and be more spectacular. More bulbs will be planted this autumn.



The Orchard



The Green Field

The paths in the Copse and the Orchard have been woodchipped to give a better surface now that spring is coming.

The Orchard

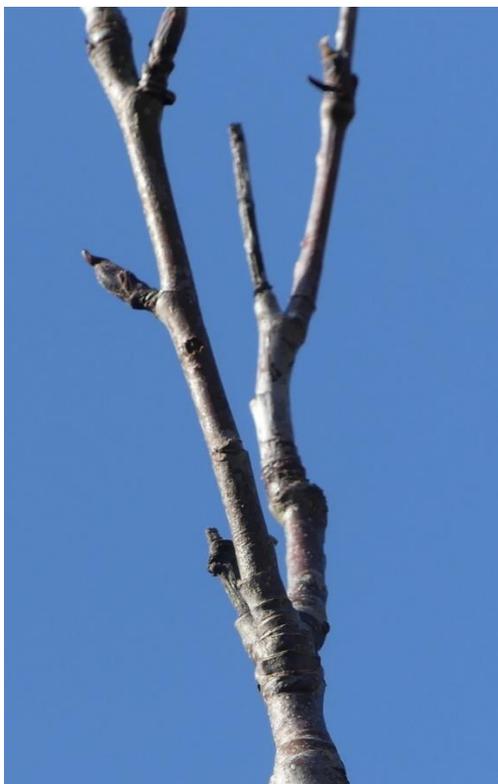
Following the building of planting areas in the Orchard, a wildflower seed mix was sown in February.

These flowers should come out this spring/summer but it will be spring 2024 before they reach their full potential.



Seeds being sown

The trees planted in December 2021 are starting to bud.



Cherry tree coming into bud

In March plug plants (very small plants) were added to the new planting areas.



Plug plants being planted

This area is still fenced off to protect the seedlings and plugs. The fence will be removed once the plants and seeds have taken.



We have received a lovely donation of seedballs and we will sow them soon.

Bug hotel

Volunteers have started to build a bug hotel in the Orchard. Thanks to the Friend who inspired this by sending a photo of one in East Finchley. This is how far they've got. A couple more stories to be added.



The beginnings of our bug hotel

The Green Field

In line with the idea of having a more diverse planting regime in the Green Field, daffodils donated by a volunteer were planted in the autumn and are now starting to come up. They will spread over time and brighten up the site.



Daffodils donated by a volunteer

The Copse

We are letting nature take its course in the Copse, although there is some tidying of paths and the removal of dangerous, overhanging trees.

The ghost of Finchley Way Open Space



One of our volunteers spotted this.

Is someone or something watching over the Orchard? Hopefully this is a benign ghost.

Dogs

The site has become very popular with dog walkers and from our observations we think the dogs love it too.

However, a few visitors have contacted the trustees about problems with dog mess. Some of this of course, might be foxes.

Please keep an eye on your dog and clear-up after it. Dog mess is a health hazard, especially for young children.

We don't have a dog bin to prevent problems of overflow and collection. Please take your dog litter (and any other litter) away with you.

Thanks!

Volunteers

If you volunteer regularly you might want to join the new WhatsApp group. It allows us to let you know about the volunteering sessions, especially if we have to cancel a session at short notice or plan to go ahead even if it's raining.

If you'd like to join the group either let Suzanne or Karen have your number when you come along to a session or email us.

Remember that everyone in the group will be able to see your phone number.

Closure of Amazon Smile

As you may know, Amazon Smile has now closed. Thanks to everyone who was using it with FoFWOS as your nominated charity. Other ways to donate can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

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.

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 here [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](#)

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 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.

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

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

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Evelyn Monterio