



Newsletter: June 2023

The summer volunteering sessions will be 25 June, 9 & 30 July and 13 & 27 August 2023. Posters are on the gates.

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Wildflower planting

The wildflowers seeded in the Orchard are taking off nicely. There will be a better display next year once everything has settled in but it can take up to four years to mature.



Wildflowers sprouting in the Orchard

We purchased the plug plants from Meadow Mania and their advice is:

“Establishing a new perennial wildflower meadow will take a little time; from Year 1 full of gloriously colourful annuals, to Year 2 with fewer colours and the first of your perennial blooms, and finally on to Years 3 and 4 and a species-rich, biodiverse, floriferous and colourful meadow.”

To protect the seedlings until their roots have established, the trustees have applied to Barnet Council for funding to erect a wicker surround to the two planted areas in the Orchard. It will be about the same height as the current plastic fencing but much sightlier.

The grant application is also to cover neater edging for the paths in the Orchard.

Any comments on these plans to fofwos@gmail.com

Wildlife

As hoped, bringing in different soils and plants has already led to a diversification of wildlife.

Several species of bee have made homes in the new materials. None is harmful to humans.

Volunteers inserted tubes into the sand mounds to help some species of bees find homes.



Discarded piping reused as bee house



Volunteers making homes for bees



Bee fly

Bee-flies do not bite or sting. They are mostly interested in finding nectar, mating and laying their eggs.



Hairy footed flower bee

Hairy-footed flower bees are solitary bees. They are not aggressive and rarely sting humans unless provoked or threatened.



Andrena bicolor

These bees are also harmless to humans.



Nomada species

These are harmless to humans and do not sting.



Speckled wood butterfly

Birds

Blue tits have been using one of the nest boxes put up by volunteers two years ago.



Blue tit at home

There are also signs that a pair of robins and a pair of wrens have nested in the wilder areas of the site.

All will have fledged by the time you receive this newsletter.

Hibernaculum

Volunteers have built a hibernaculum - a place for small reptiles (frogs and toads. etc.) to hibernate and generally feel safe.



It needs to be in the vicinity of water or a wet area but not that close. We're assured that if we built it, they would come. So, we have! Let's see what happens.



The finished article

Testimonials

We've had a number of comments from the community in response to how the site has changed since volunteers have opened-up the site.

Some of these are now on our website [here](#). **Testimonials**

Volunteering

Over the summer there will be a lot of work keeping the bramble and nettles in check. We don't want them to take over and return the site to the overgrown, impenetrable place it was four years ago.

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 know, either come along to a session or email us.

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

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 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](#)

Join Give with Bing and earn points from Microsoft Rewards that turn into real donations for us! Sign up [here](#)

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

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.

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

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Samuel Levy