



Newsletter: August 2021

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. This month we're having a final push to reach the target for our crowdfunding campaign. We're also showcasing the fruit growing in the Orchard - trees and some shrubs.

We're having a final push on our Barnet Spacehive crowdfunding campaign for a water pump and 4 mature trees. We have to reach our target by the end of the month.

To find out more about the project and to donate go to

www.spacehive.com/wildlifewonderland or contact us at fofwos@gmail.com

If you have made a pledge the money will not be collected if we do not reach our target. The Gift Aid form will be available via Spacehive if the money is collected.

The Orchard

We are preparing the central area of the Orchard for planting. While volunteers have been digging they have found a 1918 silver 3d piece and some Chinese style willow pattern china.



This is the best piece but other fragments of pottery were also found.



Please come along and help on Sunday mornings 10.30 -12.30.

You never know what you might find.

The Orchard

In line with the findings of our public consultation, rather than restore an orchard, we're aiming at more diverse planting that will be wildlife friendly. But there are some edible fruits appearing. These are good for wildlife as well as for us. Insects love the flowers and birds eat the fruit and the trees make good habitat.

There are two apple trees (*malus pumila*) with fruit that can be eaten or cooked. The apples are ripening but won't be ready to eat or cook with until next month.



Apple tree, *Malus pumila*

There is also a crab apple tree (*malus sylvestris*), at least one cherry plum (*prunus cerasifera*), which is excellent for birds, and a European plum (*prunus domestica*).

Taking photos of trees against a background of trees is very difficult. Why not go along and see for yourself?

We plan to add a pear tree if we reach our Spacehive target.

There are a few raspberries (*rubus idaeus*) and some Himalayan blackberries (*rubus armeniacus*).

And there are several elderflowers.



Raspberries



Blackberries

Getting ready for planting

Months of solidly digging away and we are getting closer to planting. At the next work party we will start covering the cleared areas with membrane to stop the weeds re-growing.

Unusual plants

One of our Friends spotted this in the Copse. It's a Spanish Dagger, *yucca gloriosa*. Most likely an escapee from a nearby garden as is a Franchet's cotoneaster, *cotoneaster franchetii* which we discovered on the edge of the Green Field.



Council support

The new fence and gates along part of the unpaved stretch of Hamilton Way are now in place, along with a new gate at the main entrance on Finchley Way. This is thanks to a grant from the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee.

Respondents to our consultation last autumn wanted gates to make the site safer for young children and dogs.



Hamilton Way gate to allow access for machinery and deliveries



New fence along the unpaved section of Hamilton Way



New gate in the unpaved section of Hamilton Way

Understanding the site

We're hoping to have the interpretation board with the history of the site installed before the end of the month.

About Us

Last month we welcomed Nick Dimant as a new Trustee and Secretary of the charity. Nick says:

"I live very close to the site and I walk my dog there regularly. I'm passionate about the environment and excited to be joining the Board of Trustees."

We also welcomed two new members to the Management Committee, Greg Brown and Miles Robertson. Both bring useful skills and experience to the team.

The Management Committee looks after the day-to-day matters of the work on the site, while the Trustees are responsible for the running of the charity.

There are now nine trustees and ten members of the Management Committee. Some of the trustees are also on the Management Committee.

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 [Donate to FoFWOS](#).

We accept donations via [PayPal Giving Fund](#) and [GoFundMe](#).

We are registered for Gift Aid. Download the form from the website donate page or 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. We 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 our 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 our website for back issues of the newsletter and information about the site.

Thank you for your support

Contributors - Suzanne King

Facebook

We have an open Facebook [page](#) and a closed [group](#).

YouTube

Our YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look at [Friend of Finchley Way Open Space - YouTube](#)

Instagram

Follow us @fofwos20

There are also links available from the footer on our website.

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.

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Leave a message, we will respond.