



Newsletter: May 2020

The Committee held two online meetings during April and has developed an outline map of what the site might look like in the long run. Arlette, one of the Committee members, who is a landscape architect by profession, is developing a sketch plan. We will include this in a subsequent edition of the newsletter so all Friends can comment on it if we are still unable to hold meetings.

We are looking for someone who can develop an artist's impression of what the site might look like from this sketch map. If that's something you can help with please contact Suzanne and Alan at FOFWOS@gmail.com

The current situation

The site is open if you want to walk round it as part of your daily exercise. If you go into the wild part please be careful. There are fox holes and fallen logs hidden even in the paths. This is at your own risk. At this time of year the vegetation is growing-up but please do not do any cutting back. It is now the nesting season and we don't want to disturb birds and other wildlife.



English or Spanish Bluebells?

The Plan

As we said in the April newsletter, the Committee is proposing to plant a community orchard on part of the site. We have contacted the charity The Orchard Project for information on how they might support us.

They have supported orchards in Mill Hill, at Church Farm in Greyhound Hill, Hendon and in East Finchley as well as in Arnos Park. They also provide training courses for a fee. So we are hopeful that we will be able to draw on their expertise. Have a look at www.theorchardproject.org.uk if you want to know more about them.

Following ideas from Friends we are also thinking about having a wild meadow area and have discovered Beebombs as an easy way to get started.

Once we can resume work, we'll need volunteers to clear the ground in preparation for releasing the Beebombs. Have a look at www.beebombs.com to find out more.



The big tree we thought was dead - isn't!

Animals and plants

Samuel, one of our Committee members, was unable to set-up small-animal detection kits as the British Trust for Ornithology asked members not to undertake such surveys for the time being. We hope to be able to do this in the future.

The People's Trust for Endangered Species supports volunteers to undertake wildlife surveys. Once things get back to 'normal' we will see how volunteers can help to identify the animal and plant life on the site. See www.ptes.org for more details.

The Wildlife Trust also aims to support volunteers to identify flora and fauna.

Historic artefacts

You probably saw Alan's email about the loss of the historic pump from the site last month. This is very sad as we were hoping to make it a feature of this area, which we have provisionally earmarked as a wildlife area. This sort of artefact is a popular garden accessory.

The unauthorised removal of the pump has made us more wary of publicising what is on the site.



The pump when we found it



All that's now left of the pump

Volunteers

A volunteer with expertise in land ownership issues is needed to help identify the boundaries of the site. If you are a solicitor or have the relevant skills and are able to volunteer please get in touch.

There are also volunteering opportunities to organise events and publicity once we are able to have gatherings. No previous experience is necessary. We can provide support to get you started.

We also need volunteers to write short pieces and take photos for the newsletter.

If you would like to join the Committee we meet about once a month. At the moment we are meeting using online conferencing but we usually meet in each other's homes.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Suzanne and Alan via our email at FOFWOS@gmail.com

Donations

Despite having to freeze activities, we can still accept donations and it is possible for some things, such as the ecology survey, to take place. For details of how to donate please email Suzanne and Alan at fofwos@gmail.com



Some Cherry Laurel we haven't cut down.

Social Media

There is a Facebook open to all FOFWOS members

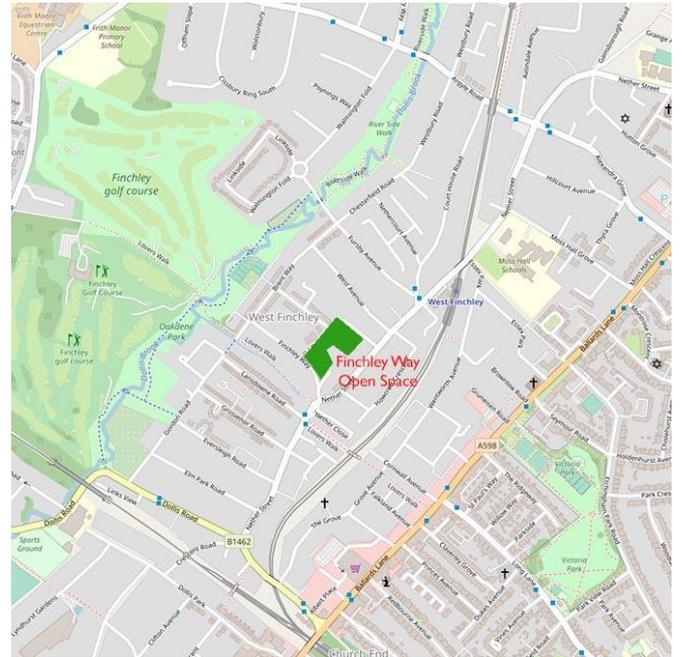
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385689341590473/>

Please log in to see what's happening and post photos and messages for Friends, some of who cannot go out at the moment.



Rotting log - a good habitat for creatures

Location of the site



Thank you for your support

The committee is continuing to plan for the future despite the current restrictions.



Anybody recognise this plant?

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