



## Newsletter: December 2021

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Please note that the next work party date is 9 January, 10.30 - 12.30

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#### Benches in the Orchard

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November Ian Varley from Rustic Carpentry delivered three hand-carved benches for the Orchard.

With help from his mate Simon and one of our Management Committee (also Simon) the solid oak benches were hauled into position and dug in. This was no easy task as the benches are very heavy, as you can see. |



Ian, Simon and Simon hauling the benches through the Copse

The wood comes from trees that are being felled for maintenance or building work. They were not felled specifically to make the benches.

Creating benches is giving the trees another lease of life. They should last for many years.



These benches are a great addition to the Orchard. They blend in with the aim of making this part of the site a native wildlife habitat, while giving us humans the opportunity to sit and ponder the wildlife, planting and life in general.



FoFWOS is grateful to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee for the funding.

Do go and try them out.

### Planting on the Green Field

Removing the trees at the top of the Green Field because of subsidence to Cedar Court has left a gap.

At the November work party a family planted a small acer in memory of their father.



Four men and a dog went to plant a tree!

It had been hoped that this would be the beginning of rejuvenating this area without causing problems to the building.

Wilson Lloyd, a local gardening company, has donated a cherry tree (*prunus avium plena*), which we thought could also be planted at the top of the Green Field.

BUT...

After digging three holes we realised that the arched brick cellars of Brent Lodge had been uncovered.



Thwarted by the cellars!

A new location for the tree will have to be found.

This will greatly restrict what can be done at the top of the Green Field.



The acer

It doesn't look much now but it will bring beautiful colour in the spring.

### End of year celebration

The December work party stopped early and volunteers were joined by more supporters for seasonal treats.





Some of the volunteers, supporters and trustees at the end of year celebration

A lot has been achieved since work re-started at the end of April this year.

Most impressively, the central area of the Orchard has been dug over and the roots of the bramble have been removed. This took some serious digging by many different people but we got there in the end.

The other major achievement is that paths have been cut and edged in the Orchard, creating a circular walk and all the paths have been covered in wood chip.

The installation of the interpretation board at the Finchley Way entrance helps to make the site more welcoming.

The bird and animal boards at the entrance to the Copse have proved a hit. We often see people reading them. Hopefully the bird boxes will be inhabited next year.

The brick wall in the Orchard has been made safe by the Council. This has enabled the other entrance to be opened and another route round the site to be cut. The clearance has created a great vista long the wall. Documentation found recently shows that the wall was built between 1810 and 1830.

Lastly, some of the fences have been replaced, making the site look neater.

In the centre of the Orchard the earth is currently resting under porous membrane.

It is hoped that shrubs and other planting will be done over the winter.

In the spring we hope to see the 1,700 bulbs planted at the end of October providing colour.

### Annual consultation

The annual consultation survey is open until the end of the year. Click [FoFWOS Annual Survey](#) to start.

Feel free to email [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) at any time if you have comments, suggestions or questions or want to get more involved.

### Annual meeting of Friends

If you would like a copy of the presentation from the annual meeting, please email [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com).

To bring the annual Friends' meeting in line with reporting to the Charity Commission the next meeting will be held in the summer of 2023.

The report for 2021-22 will be presented then. The summer will be a much better time to get together than December.

### New hedging

The Woodland Trust has awarded FoFWOS 30 trees to make a hedge at the top of the Green Field along the broken down fence.

They will be delivered in March, so volunteers at the February work party will start preparing the ground.

### Work parties

Don't forget that work parties no longer take place every Sunday. Dates are on the gates. The next work party is 9 January.

## About the charity

### 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](#).

FoFWOS accepts donations via [PayPal Giving Fund](#), [GoFundMe](#) and [CAF](#)

FoFWOS is registered for Gift Aid. Download the form from the website donate page or contact Karen, our Treasurer, at [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com)

If you use Amazon please consider switching to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose Friends of Finchley Way Open Space as your charity. FoFWOS 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 the FoFWOS 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

### Facebook

There is an open Facebook [page](#) and a closed [group](#).

### YouTube

The 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](mailto: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](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com) and we will delete your contact details.

Website: [fofwos.org](http://fofwos.org)

Email: [fofwos@gmail.com](mailto:fofwos@gmail.com)

Phone: 07496 471659.

The phone is now 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.

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**Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you next year.**

Contributors - Suzanne King and Karen Goodman