



Newsletter: September 2020

News Flash

Charitable status

Following discussions with Barnet Council, the Committee has agreed to establish Friends of Finchley Way Open Space as a charity. We hope to submit the papers for registration to the Charity Committee later this month. More information inside.

Work parties

Work parties will be limited to six people in line with new Government regulations.

We've decided to fix a regular time which will be the last Sunday morning in the month starting 27 September 2020. We'll start at 10.30 am and finish by 12.30 pm. Each session begins with a health and safety talk and a briefing on what's to be done that day.

We may still have other sessions to complete specific tasks as part of the initial renovations.



Post Work Party talk on the history of the site

The Site

The site is owned by Barnet Council and is free to enjoy. The main entrance is in Finchley Way, London, N3 1AH (opposite No.6).

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Co-opted Committee member

The Committee has co-opted Philip West onto the Committee because of his knowledge of trees and general commitment to the environment and our Vision.

Unwanted tools

If you have unwanted garden hand tools please think about donating them to FoFWOS. We can't accept anything that is powered. If you know where we can get loppers, secateurs, etc. sharpened please let us know.



The new path in The Copse

Friends' charity

The first, and unfortunately the only, meeting of the Friends so far took place on 17 December 2019 because of coronavirus restrictions. We plan to hold another meeting in December 2020 or January 2021. This may have to be virtual. The Committee has continued to meet virtually to take forward the plans.

The original idea for ongoing management of the site, as we've reported in previous newsletters, was for some of the Friends to join Barnet Council as trustees of the Augustus Cooper charity. However, this has proved too difficult from a practical point of view. The Council has therefore advised and actively supported Friends of Finchley Way Open Space registering as a charity. We intend to apply for registration to the Charity Commission to later this month.

The Committee agreed to constitute the charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Foundation model. Most of the Committee have agreed to become trustees along with Philip West and two of the West Finchley Ward Councillors, Ross Houston and Danny Rich. We have set a limit of 12 trustees so if you would like to become a founding trustee, please get in touch.

A proposal will be put forward at the next meeting of the Friends that the existing unconstituted body be disbanded, and the that Friends become non-voting members of the new charity.

Each year the charity's constitution states that there will be a requirement for new trustees, so you will be able to stand in the future.

If you would like more information on the formation of the charity please email fofwos@gmail.com.

Protecting the site

Establishing FoFWOS came out of developing the West Finchley Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan proposes that the site is designated as green space which will provide extra protection for the site.



One of the helpers

Ecology surveys

Work is moving forward on getting the ecology survey completed in the next few weeks by a professional company.

Barnet's Tree Team has a survey of the major trees on the Green but Philip West is conducting a more detailed and up-dated survey covering the whole site. This will include mapping the positions of the trees in the Orchard and the Copse.



A fallen tree in The Copse

Archaeology

Alan, Suzanne and Richard (another Committee member) met with a member of HADAS (Hendon and District Archaeological Society) to see items discovered when they dug on the site in 1970.

The items found were from the 17th and 18th centuries and so we think pre-date the last house built on the site (known as Brent Lodge) in 1810.



Thimble

Piece of crockery

We are exploring the possibility of a survey to uncover the floorplan of the 1810 house, probably using resistivity testing. We now think the earlier house might have been on a different part of the site. More on this to come.

Website

We now have a website close to launch. This will mean that Friends and others will be able to easily see our plans, the various policies and procedures, up-coming events and more. It will also help run the consultation on the plans later this year. A link to a questionnaire will be available from the site. We'll let you know when it's all live.

Social media

Don't forget to look at and post on the Facebook open to all FOFWOS members at:

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

Our Instagram account and You Tube channel will be launched with our website.



A good haul of litter from the last work party

Fund raising

Thanks to those of you who have donated time and money over the past few months. Small donations help to cover incidental costs such as tree protectors and labels and tags to hold the path edging in place.

You can donate either by contacting us at FOFWOS@gmail.com or by bank transfer to Sort Code: 01-06-28, Account Name: Friends of Finchley Way open Space, Account number: 44189184. If you donate, please let us know by email.

All money raised goes to support the purchase of equipment, facilities for the site and to fund work that cannot be undertaken by volunteers as we can only use hand tools and lack some essential skills. All administration and organisation is done by volunteers.

We will soon be looking for funding for other projects within the overall plan.



Using cut vegetation to edge paths



We'll carry on the path when the wasps die off in the cold

Thank you for your support

Contributors - Suzanne King, Alan Douglas and Richard Bartholomew

To contact the Committee, some of whom live within sight of the site, just email FoFWOS@gmail.com

You can **unsubscribe** from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com. You can request that all your details and email history be deleted at any time.