



Newsletter: July 2021

Welcome to the July edition of our newsletter. This month we are showcasing our planting plans for the Orchard.

Our **Barnet Spacehive crowdfunding** campaign now has 51 backers who between them have pledged £2,586 to our project to raise money for 4 mature trees and a hand pump. Thanks to all those who have donated.

Barnet Council is the 50th backer and has contributed £1,326. Taking into account other donations to this campaign, we are 70% of the way to our total. **If every Friend donated (another) £13 we would reach our target.**

Please spread the word amongst your family, friends and neighbours.

Remember, the money will not be collected if we do not reach our target of £4,688. To donate go to spacehive.com/wildlifewonderland or contact us at fofwos@gmail.com The Gift Aid form will be available when the money is collected.

We know that not everyone is able to donate and that we have a lot of support in the local community, which also helps us raise funding.

The Orchard

The 1907 sale documents suggest that this area was either an orchard or an outer area of the kitchen garden. We've taken the name Orchard from old maps

Unfortunately there isn't a plan, only a list of buildings and plants. See our history of the site for more information at [History of FoFWOS](#)

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) dug in the Orchard in the 1970s and found signs of what they believed to be glass houses. So it seems likely that this was an area supplying the now demolished Brent Lodge with provisions.

We are not trying to restore the area as an orchard or a kitchen garden.

In line with local views, we're aiming to prioritise wildlife, while also enabling people to enjoy the area.

In order to do this we removed some of the bramble, which was creating what was largely a monoculture and provided poor habitat.



Our Chair in the Orchard, winter 2020

We are following the philosophy of Professor James Hitchmough of Sheffield University.

He was Lead Planting Design and Horticultural Consultant at the 2012 Olympic Park and he is currently working on developing the 10 hectare Big Sky Meadow at RHS Hyde Hall.

He holds that plants native to the UK can be supplemented with non-natives from other parts of the world that have similar climatic and soil conditions. This increases the visual attractiveness for humans, while still providing suitable habitat for native insects as a basis for other species.

For more about him and his research see: [James Hitchmough](#)

He also has a Twitter feed which can be accessed from that site.

Tree work

Three of the trustees had a long meeting on the site with one of the Barnet Tree Officers. This was very useful in getting help on how best to care for our trees.

We learnt that some of the trees need to be cut down in order for others to thrive. Many of the trees are self-seeded and will not do well because there is not enough light or space. Some are crowding out our more valuable trees, such as oak.

We're leaving the ivy on the trees as it is great habitat for a whole variety of species.

We have found a spectacular Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) that needs to be given more space to thrive. How rare is Yew? Is this one of the 'rare conifers' referred to in the 1907 sale documents?

Elsewhere on the site there is a small Canadian Yew (*Taxus Canadensis*).



Trees in the Copse covered in ivy

Council support

We have had a lot of support from the Council since the last newsletter.

Not only has Barnet added £1,326 to our Spacehive crowdfunding campaign but also...

The fence at the back of the Orchard with Chilvins Court has been replaced.



Smart new fence at the back of the Orchard

The wall with Cedar Court is being repaired and the fence along Hamilton Way between numbers 28 and 33 has been replaced.

In line with the results of our consultation, pedestrian gates have been reinstated at the entrances.

The Council is paying for FoFWOS to have two days of specialist tree contractor time to help us ensure that the trees are well maintained.

At the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee meeting we were awarded £5,596 to buy three 'rustic' seats from Rustic Oak Furniture and shrubs, bulbs and wildflowers for the Orchard.

So it's now full steam ahead on getting the cleared areas in the Orchard ready for planting to create the varied habitat that we want to support diverse populations of animal, insect, reptile and amphibian life.

It makes getting the Spacehive donations for trees and the pump even more important. The pump is crucial if our planting is to survive.

Citizen Science

The British Trust for Ornithology and the behavioural science research group at Middlesex University have started an online Citizen Science project.

They want to see how much birds eat human foods and litter instead of "natural" food like worms and insects.

You don't need to be able to identify bird species to take part.

To take part, go to: [Survey](#)

The study is open until 26th August. You can submit multiple times.

All the birds on the boards on the Green Field at the entrance to the Copse have been seen on the site with the exception of the owl, which has only been heard. We hope to put the owl box up soon.



Information board at the entrance to the Copse from the Green Field

Why not come along and see what you can spot?

Composting

Volunteers have built compost bins out of pallets to enable us be self-sustaining.



Compost bins built from pallets

Understanding the site

We have now commissioned a company to produce an information board for the Finchley Way entrance.

It welcomes people to the public space and has a brief timeline of key developments on the site since 1448.

We will also have small notices at the entrances telling people that the site is open and for everyone to use. We've been told that local children think it's just for them!

Local news

For those who haven't heard, this summer (July to September) Barnet Council is putting on lots of events in parks and open spaces across the borough. For more information see: [Discover Barnet Presents](#)

About Us

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

Facebook

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

You Tube

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

Instagram

Follow us @fofwos20

All are available from the links in the footer on the 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.

Go to our website for back issues of the newsletter and information about the site.

Thank you for your support

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