



Newsletter: Summer 2024

The next work session is Sunday 14th July 2024 and until November, the second and last Sundays in the month. No experience needed.

We may arrange some extra sessions depending on plans and some may be cancelled if the weather is very bad or indeed too hot!

The dates are on the gates and on the website.

In this issue

Wildflowers	About the charity
Funding	How to get involved
Volunteer celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to donate
Spring and summer volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to contact the Trustees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow FoFwOS on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram @fofwos20

Wildflowers

The wildflowers have gone wild!

This is due to the warmer weather and the rather wet spring.

They have outgrown our best expectations in this their first year.

A variety of bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths and insects have been spotted.



Volunteers working on the site

The tall blue flowers in the photos are: Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)

The yellow ones on the left are: Corn Marigold Wildflower (*Glebionis segetum*)

The pink ones are: Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*)





Wildflowers in the Orchard

Here's some information on some of the flowers in the photos. Please don't try these remedies at home!

The curious name 'vipers bugloss' comes from the possible past use of the root as a treatment for snake bites.

Mallow was thought to be soothing and to have anti-inflammatory qualities. Once used to treat respiratory and digestive issues as well as skin irritations.



The teasels have shot-up

Teasels have been used as combs for wool, etc. and as decoration but the seeds are very attractive to birds, and the pollen to bees and insects.

Funding

We were successful in our bid to Barnet Council's East Area Committee. The new money will pay for the planting and some landscaping of the newly dug area.



Area awaiting planting

The plan is to edge the area with about 40 cm of board, fronted with wicker to hold topsoil on three sides.

The side nearest the big apple tree will have two gabions - one planted on top, the other made into a seat. The gabions will also be planted into the sides.

Gabions can be filled with a variety of materials from the site, making excellent habitat for a variety of creatures.

For those who don't know what a gabion is (I didn't a year ago), it's a metal mesh frame, often filled with rocks but any material can be used. You can see them lining the sides of the above ground tube tracks. There are some between Finchley Central and West Finchley stations but ours will be much smaller.

The funding will also pay for an information board about some of the trees on the site, matching the other boards.

There will also be name plaques on more of the trees.



Existing information boards

Volunteer celebration

The first week of June was national Volunteers Week, a time to celebrate the efforts of volunteers across the country. Due to holidays, FoFWOS held its volunteer celebration on 30th June 2024.

Work stopped early for drinks and various nibbles and (more) chat.



Volunteers enjoying a belated Volunteer Week celebration

New volunteers

Lots of people thank us for the work on the site but we're nothing more than local residents. Most of didn't know each other before we started.

Anyone over 18 can join in. Younger volunteers must come with an adult.

Over the spring and summer, we need extra volunteers to keep the paths tidy. This involves cutting back overhanging shrubs and branches and trimming the edges. No gardening knowledge is needed. Work is always planned but we're open to ideas and often change things as we go along.

Come along and join in.

We're told we're very friendly!



Volunteers cutting back to clear the paths

About the charity

Get involved

We welcome new Friends. Membership is free and ensures that you receive the quarterly newsletter.

Or come along and volunteer at a work session on the second or last Sunday in the month. Less often in the winter.

You don't have to volunteer to be a Friend and you don't need to be a Friend to volunteer.

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 at [Donation information](#).

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

FoFWOS is registered for Gift Aid. The form can be filled in online [here](#) or we can send you a copy by email contact our Treasurer fofwos@gmail.com.

FoFWOS also accepts donations via [PayPal](#), [Benevity](#) and [CAF](#)

Join Give with Bing and earn points from Microsoft Rewards that turn into real donations for us! Sign up [here](#)

Check out our website for back issues of the [newsletter](#).

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you soon.

Contributors - Suzanne King, Karen Goodman, Richard Bartholomew, Arlette Garcia and Omri Stephenson

If you buy bird food, feeders, etc., please use this link to [CJ Wildlife](#) which is also on the FoFWOS website. It will generate some commission for FoFWOS on every sale.

Facebook

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

YouTube

The YouTube channel has some entertaining videos. Have a look [YouTube](#)

Instagram

Follow us @fofwos20

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](#)

OR come along to a work party meeting - second and last Sundays in the month March-November, less often in the winter. The dates are posted on the gates and on the website.

We are always pleased to hear from Friends.

You can unsubscribe from this list at any time by emailing fofwos@gmail.com and we will delete your contact details.

Website: fofwos.org

Email: fofwos@gmail.com