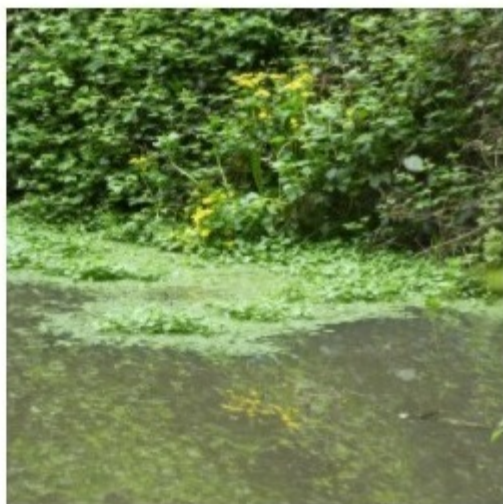




HARINGEY COUNCIL'S FLOOD MITIGATION SCHEME

We have sent a formal response from the Friends to the consultation. We would like to give a huge thank you to all members for their tremendous support and their own responses to the scheme.

Results of the consultation will be known about May 2nd. The timeline beyond that is unclear and will depend on the level at which the final decision is taken. It seems likely that this will not be an officer decision in view of the volume and nature of the responses which means that the decision will be taken at political level. We will continue to keep you informed at every stage.



Frog pond



River Moselle

Sites in the Wood which could be affected

In summary, our response was to oppose the scheme. The principal reasons we gave were:

- Under the scheme wide channels would be dug alongside existing streams and large wooden structures installed which would be visually intrusive and upset the fragile eco-system of the wood.
- The scheme risks spreading pollution and invasive species
- The wood has many plants that are rare in London that could be lost for ever.
- There are no identifiable benefits to the Wood from the scheme in terms of its biodiversity and amenity value.
- The scheme is not compatible with the legal status of the Wood.
- Even if it were acceptable – which we dispute – it would be quite wrong to carry out such a scheme at a time when the Wood is already under great stress given the heavy footfall and adverse climatic conditions of the last year.

The full response can be found on our website at fqw.org.uk (click [here](#)). It has been sent to our MP, local councillors and to the cabinet members with responsibility for Parks and Highways

MEMBERSHIP

Great to know that 42 new members have joined in the last few weeks, many with generous donations. A warm welcome and thanks to you all.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Would a member be willing to take on the job of organising a team of litter pickers in the wood on a regular basis, socially distanced of course? We can provide litter pickers and advice from Gemma Harris, who has retired from her role after a really useful few years of doing this. Text Lucy Roots on 07740 993647 to find out more.



Litter collection team May 2018

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26 May - talk on invasive species

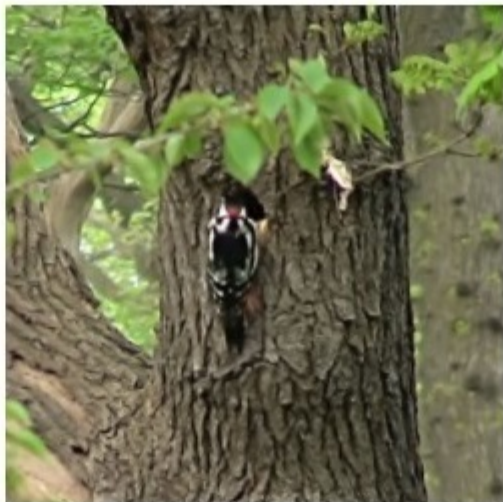
Sarah King, an ecologist from Ebsford Ecology specialising in Invasive Species, will give a talk about invasive species, particularly on the Pennywort which worryingly has invaded the frog pool. 7.30pm on Zoom.

16 June - talk on London wild flowers

David Bevan, botanist and Haringey conservation officer 1989-2005, will give a talk about the wild flowers of London. 7.30pm on Zoom. Further details of both talks nearer the time.

NEWS FROM THE WOOD

In the very cold spring this year all the leaves have been delayed but now their fresh green is everywhere, except the ash tree, which is always the latest to unfurl. In February we heard the greater spotted woodpecker drumming and, on many days, the green woodpecker with its distinctive call. This bird usually feeds on ant nests in grass but there is little grass in the wood due to the deep shade and trampling. Once grass even grew in the Witches Coven clearing but no more.



Greater Spotted Woodpecker - photo Barry Davis



Tree tag

If you notice little metal numbered tags on the trees, these are being placed by the council to identify and precisely map the trees. Adding information such as species and condition will make it easier to locate individual trees and deal with problems such as removing dangerous branches before they fall down.

Sadly we have lost our one ancient listed Veteran Tree, a pollarded hornbeam on the ancient boundary bank. Pollarded trees are cut about 2 metres above the ground whereas most hornbeams in the wood were coppiced, i.e cut to the base, to extend their life and provide timber.

Volunteers have been building dead hedges to protect the native bluebells, wood anemones, sanicle and cow wheat sites. Please respect these if you see them. Cow wheat is a pretty little pale yellow flower whose seeds are spread by ants and which is parasitic on a certain kind of grass. One species of cow wheat was indeed used to make bread hence its name. Sadly we have lost many areas where this flower once grew.



Cow wheat

TREE OF THE MONTH: HIGHCLERE HOLLY

Highclere holly is a hybrid/cross between a Canary Island holly *Ilex perado* and the native English holly. The Highclere has fewer prickles and, when looking at a holly in the woods, the fewer prickles it has the more it is allied to the Highclere origin. There are 19 compartments in the wood that contain this hybrid so it is widespread. It is pollution tolerant so does well in urban areas.



Leaves of Highclere Holly

The native holly has more prickles lower down the tree to deter grazing animals but higher up has fewer prickles. There are male and female hollies and only the females bear berries.

MISSION INVERTEBRATE

Talk by Alice Evans on 17 March

Alice is the Project Officer for 'Mission Invertebrate', a project funded by the People's Postcode Lottery that operates in all the Royal Parks to protect and enhance invertebrate habitats. M:I works with volunteers who help with Citizen Science projects, and habitat work. The M:I team also run learning activities with school groups, do community engagement and adult learning activities. She talked about the huge number of trees, waterways, hedges, plants and, for example, 400,000 ant hills in Richmond Park. She showed us slides of the various projects and activities which include creating a butterfly monitoring transfer in Brompton Cemetery, hedge laying in Richmond Park, family activities and their 'More Than Bugs' self-led walking trails, such as the 'water beetle walk' in Kensington Gardens. They also commission specialist surveys, for example focusing on the terrestrial invertebrates of Hyde Park.