

# FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

[www.fqw.org.uk](http://www.fqw.org.uk)

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### BAT WALK - THURSDAY 19 AUGUST

Cindy Blaney will be leading a bat walk on 19 August at 8.00pm which will last around an hour. Meet at the Lodge cafe and bring a torch.



Photo - Cindy Blaney

### RAIN,RAIN,RAIN!



Many thanks to all who contributed evidence, anecdotal or photographic, about what happened as a result of the heavy rains on 12 July, which the Council has subsequently told us was a 1 in 25/30 years event. On the basis of this and our own analysis we drew up a report on the impact of the event, which you can find by clicking [here](#). The report focuses on real concerns about the serious scouring and erosion throughout the Wood, and the adequacy of the basic systems currently in place for drawing surplus water from the Wood in such conditions. Many of the pipeline inlets in the Wood were blocked, as were the gullies on the roads in the catchment area. There are also concerns about the capacity of the pipeline itself. The report has been submitted to both the Highways and Parks Departments of the Council with recommendations for actions, including the regular checking and maintaining of the drainage systems both within the Wood and the streets in the catchment area as a whole.

For an ancient woodland the extensive scouring of areas that has removed topsoil and natural debris such as leaves is a serious ecological degradation. It would be extremely difficult - or even impossible - to reverse, and steps need to be taken to prevent or at least reduce it in the future, possibly by increasing the vegetation cover on the ground. This should take place on the slopes well before entering the streams. Even if soil settled lower down, it would not be practicable to replace it higher up the slopes. We will work with the council on this vital problem.

Even before we issued the report we had asked the Council whether the flooding of properties in Wood Vale on 12 July would have occurred if the existing surface water sewers in the woodland and Wood Vale had been properly maintained. The Council has told us in response that they do not themselves hold records of Thames Water's inspection and maintenance regimes of their network, this being a matter for Thames Water. They have forwarded our concerns and photographic evidence to Thames Water for a response.

In the meantime, turning to the proposed flood management scheme in

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the Wood, we have just heard back from Cllr Hakata, the responsible member in the Council's cabinet, about the way forward following our meeting with him in the Wood on 30 June. He has agreed with us that there is a need 'to step back few paces in order to realise a co-produced approach', kicking off with some on-site meetings between the Parks team and ourselves, in the hope of reaching a consensus, followed by a wider stakeholder meeting which would include the Highways officers. We have welcomed this and stand ready to get started.

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## **WORKING PARTIES**

Please note there is no working party in the Wood in August. The next working party will be on 26 September.

## **YOUR COMMITTEE:**

**Chair** John Dorken

**Treasurer** Michael Johns

**Membership and Newsletter** Alison Watson

**Ecology** Lucy Roots

**Infrastructure** David Warren

**Arts events** Jane Warren

**Conservation and Management Plan**

Sarah Graham-Brown

**Social media** Laura Dekker

