

Friends of Queen's Wood

Friends of Queen's Wood <info@fqw.org.uk>

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To: Colin <colin_rosemary@outlook.com>



FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD Easter Newsletter 2020

www.fqw.org.uk



THE WOOD IN A TIME OF LOCK DOWN

Sadly this newsletter is a little different from usual because of the outbreak of coronavirus Covid19. We hope all our members are keeping well and safe.

By now everyone knows that our usual activities have had to be cancelled, following the Government's guidelines. This has included our Annual General Meeting and for the moment your existing Committee will be continuing as last year. We do, however, have much to share with you.

For now the discussions with the Council about a possible changing/toilet/welfare unit have been suspended.

EXERCISING IN THE WOOD

Queen's Wood is very busy with people enjoying their allowed exercise and this means the wood may even be busier than usual. ***So please, as you walk or run (but not cycle) in the wood, look out for anything that does not seem right.***

FIRES

Last week a fire was started and thanks to an eagle eye and the fire brigade's rapid response it was put out quickly. Fires are always a threat with so much dead wood around, so, if you see one, please contact the fire

brigade yourself **on 999** with an accurate location and using the wood's post code which is N10 3JP. The police need to know about incidents of fires being set off in the Wood, so if you come across any please contact us at info@fqw.org.uk and we can then pass the information on to the police.

LITTER

This is another potential hazard and we have put up notices on the bins asking people to take their litter and dog waste home as the bins may well be removed or not cleared in the future. And if you feel able and can take a bag and gloves with you, it would be so helpful for Friends to pick up litter.

DOGS ON LEADS

in all parks including Queen's Wood

Haringey has just circulated a requirement that all dogs must be kept on leads when out walking, to help protect everyone and make social distancing easier. Please comply.



KEEPING SAFE

There is always a risk of muggings in the wood. We have recently heard of two at Alexandra Park lake so do take extra care.

NEWS FROM THE WOOD

Thanks to recent volunteer work large areas of emerging bluebells and wood anemones have been protected by rough dead hedges. Please respect these and build them up with dead branches, avoiding those with fungi growing on them.



Bluebells - photo Mike Hacker



Wood anemones - photo Michael Johns

It is good news that Highgate Wood is still open for walkers as this will lessen the pressure on Queen's Wood. So many of our trees are under threat from trampling as their roots are exposed with bare earth right up to the base. In a few places, though, the wood anemones persist at the bole protected by the trunk and these are often on the north side of a tree. Is this because there is a damper environment there? An interesting study perhaps for someone to check the aspect North, South, East and West of all the trees where a few anemones grow.

The birds are appreciating the quieter habitat due to less traffic and are hearing the calls of other birds better which could lead to more mating and nesting? The old dog pond is apparently a good place to see birds with tree creepers nearby. Sitting there for half an hour quietly could be rewarding. Tree creepers only go up trees so 'creep up' on one whereas nuthatches can creep up and down trees. Nuthatches also have a very loud sound in comparison to their size.



Song Thrush in Dog pond - photo Michael Johns



Mandarin Duck in Frog Pond - photo Glenys Law

The old daffodils near the Muswell Hill entrance have very few flowers this year. This could be because they are overcrowded. Rather than divide them up and replant a creative idea might be to take them all out and replace with small delicate native daffodils – the Lenten Lilies which are the subject of Wordsworth's famous poem. A good task for volunteers in the autumn when we hope things are more normal.

IF YOU WANT TO DO JOBS ON YOUR OWN

as a form of exercise, here are some ideas:

- Pick up litter and take it home as mentioned already
- Reinforce dead hedges near the ponds and round sensitive areas
- Clear any leaves if they are blocking drains where they cross paths.

But do wear gloves and keep at least 2 metres from other people.

MEMBERSHIP

If you know of anyone who walks or runs in the wood and is not yet a member, please encourage them to join. All details on our website. You are needed more than ever.

WORKING PARTY DATES

Cancelled for the time being.

YOUR COMMITTEE:

Chairperson 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

Publicity Janet Shapiro

Co-opted Louise Craven



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