

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 May Newsletter 2020

www.fqw.org.uk



A HAVEN IN TROUBLED TIMES

In normal conditions we issue news of events every month and full newsletters three or four times a year. As we still sadly have no events to publicise, we thought members might welcome some news and pictures this month, outside our usual timetable.



The wood has been looking quite lovely these recent sunny and warm weeks and it is good to see so many people enjoying their permitted exercise, all carefully socially distancing; of course. We who live within reach of it are so lucky to have this magical space and perhaps now that we have all slowed down, we can look at the small things and listen more to the birds who also seem to be benefiting from a quieter life.



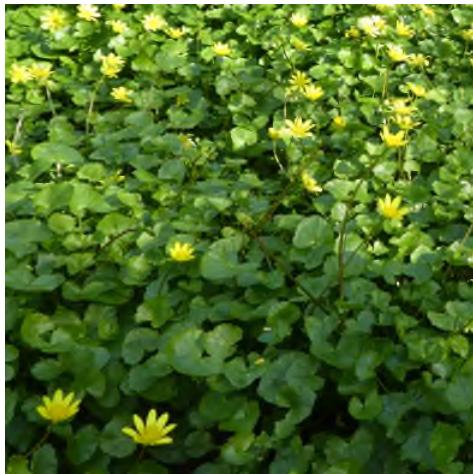
Crow enjoying the frog pond



Song thrush

The weather over three weeks has brought about huge changes from bare branches to shimmering green leaves, dancing butterflies and masses of wood anemones, enamelled yellow celandine and bluebells in full flower. By the Frogpool two pink 'ladies smock' or cuckoo flowers were spotted,

glossy yellow marsh marigolds and a pair of mallard ducks - no doubt eating the tadpoles. It was good to see small family groups exploring the fringes of the pool safely.



Yellow celandine



Frog pond with Marsh Marigolds

The downside of more visitors is the effect of extra footfall with many areas trampled and eroded especially in the dry weather. One example is the attractive rope swing area where the roots of the oak tree beneath are now deeply exposed and this can only shorten its life.

Pairs of spotted wood butterflies were moving in circles up and down, and in the Lodge garden there were acid yellow brimstone butterflies. An emerging plant in the wood is the 'Jack- by- the - hedge' or garlic mustard (though neither in garlic or mustard family) which is the foodplant for the orange tip butterfly which lays its eggs on the seed pods.



Jack-by-the-hedge

Sadly teams of volunteers from FQW or TCV have not been in the wood recently and we do miss them. Their work has been invaluable and already their absence is being noticed. For



Grate near Frog Pool, cleared by volunteer "Sam" Samuels
photo by Sam

The Friends continue to be the eyes and ears of the wood, particularly now that more people than ever are using it. In dry spells there is a real risk of fire particularly as a few people break the rules. So if you see anything that isn't right, please ring 999, if serious, giving as accurate a location as possible or, if less serious, let us know on info@fqw.org.uk. Cycling is not allowed so if you do see someone riding, not walking please ask them to push their bike.

example dead hedges are crumbling away in the dry weather, especially those which protect trampled areas, and little jobs - like repairing a piece of decking platform by the frog pond - are neglected. We are very grateful to two Friends, Michael and Sam, who have been doing jobs such as protecting wildflower areas, clearing drainage channels, trimming hedges and grubbing out the invasive cherry laurel.



Bike properly parked - near CREOS

MORE PICTURES OF PLANTS SEEN IN THE WOOD



Lords and Ladies or Cuckoo Pint



Hawthorn



Iris Foetidissima



Wild garlic

Overheard in the wood: Toddler “Daddy I want to go to the playground”. Dad “This whole wood is a playground”!

Photos by Michael Johns except where stated

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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