



FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD September Newsletter 2020

www.fqw.org.uk



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Queen's Wood will be held by video conference **on Zoom at 7.30pm on 14 October 2020.**

The notice and agenda can be found by clicking [here](#). The minutes of the last AGM can be found [here](#), the Chairman's Report [here](#), the Treasurer's Report and Accounts [here](#), and a form for nominating committee members for election or proposing motions for discussion [here](#).

Please send us any nominations or proposed motions to membership@fqw.org.uk by 6 October at the latest. Seconders of nominations or motions should email the same address confirming that they support the nomination or motion by the same date.

We will send out the final agenda on or around 9 October, including any nominations or motions submitted. We will be asking members to indicate whether they will be attending and will send a Zoom link to the meeting to those wishing to attend a day or two before the meeting.

We apologise that, because we are unable to hold the AGM at a physical location, we will not be including the usual talk but we would welcome a discussion of current issues . If members have issues they

would like to raise with us but are unable to do so at the AGM, they are always very welcome to do so by email to info@fqw.org.uk.



Looking further ahead:

TALK ON BIRD SURVEY

On **Wednesday 18 November** at 8.00pm, David Darrell Lambert, who has conducted three surveys for us over the years of birds in the wood, will be giving us a talk on the findings of his last survey in 2019. It will be delivered over Zoom and we will send you more

information and a Zoom link nearer the time.



Eurasian Hobby - photo David Darrell-Lambert

RECRUITMENT STALL

We have held one recruitment stall since lockdown and were delighted by the interest shown in our work and many new people joined the Friends. So we have decided to hold one more stall on **Sunday 27 September** this year and would really appreciate offers of help. One hour just chatting to passers by about the wood is surprisingly enjoyable! Please send offers to membership@fqw.org.uk

THREATENED OAK TREES IN THE WOOD

The protest camp has been dismantled apart from one tarpaulin and some chairs, as there will be a daytime presence only until 18 September. The insurers, AXA, are paying for a separate surveyors'

report and are talking to Haringey Council about ways forward that do not involve felling the four trees.

NEWS FROM THE WOOD

Usually at this time we can see a few yellow leaves starting to fall but this year the process started in July due to the drought and then high winds. The storm in August brought a few branches down and one or two trees but no-one seemed to get injured, perhaps because the falls occur at night. Thanks to council action and helpful volunteers the paths were kept clear.



Harriet and Penny restoring dead hedging

‘Bare soil is an anomaly in nature’ wrote Guy Watson, of Riverford Organic Farms recently in his newsletter. Walking in the woods now one notices too much bare soil, caused mainly by over shading, trampling and compaction of the soil. Ideally we would like to create more glades and broad ‘rides’ where ground cover flora could grow. This would involve more coppicing of large hornbeams and removal of holly and is expensive. Cutting trees can be helpful in restoring ground flora and new tree growth absorbs more CO₂ than old trees nearing the end of their life.

Old oaks with bare stems lower down are stimulated into new growth when trees around them are thinned.

Early autumn brings the first fungi and the example shown here is the strangely named 'dog's vomit slime mould' or Fuligo septica which was growing on a decaying oak stump.



Photo - Lucy Roots

TREE OF THE MONTH - HAZEL

There are many hazels in Queen's Wood. A few are quite tall, but most of ours are under the canopy so are quite small. Hazel, a native tree, is often coppiced and used for fencing, but when left to grow, can reach 12m and live for up to 80 years (if coppiced, hazel can live for several hundred years). It has a smooth, grey-brown, bark, which peels with age, and bendy, hairy stems. The leaves are round or oval, doubly toothed, hairy and pointed at the tip and the leaf buds are oval, blunt and hairy. The familiar catkins (hanging seeds) are a welcome sign of spring. The fruit is the hazel nut which squirrels love. The scientific name is *Corylus avellana* and the family is birch, Betulaceae.



Hazel catkins: Photo - Anon, Wikimedia Commons



Hazel Leaves

WARNING

There have been recent reports of cars soliciting passers by in Queen's Wood Road in the early evening. This can be alarming especially for women on their own. If you see anything like this please ring the police on 101.

Photos by Michael Johns except where stated

WORKING PARTY DATES

Under current government guidelines, working parties are currently restricted to 6 people including the leader. Text Lucy Roots on 07740

993647 to reserve a place. All work will be done safely distancing from each other and the public. Bring your own gloves. Tools will be provided but will not be shared between participants.

Meet at the Lodge - 10.30 to 12.00

27 September

25 October

29 November

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