



FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD Summer Newsletter 2018

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FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2.00 – 4.30pm

Free event in the Witches Coven (between the Frogpool and Wood Vale)
High wires, story telling, scavenger hunt, bark rubbing, live guitar, cake stall
and more!

Everyone welcome



2013

Family Fun Day - photograph by Michael Johns

FOR YOUR DIARY:

July 14: Walks in the wood to launch a new book of walks including Queen's Wood

August - date tba: Bat walk

September 1: Community Day in Highgate Wood – fun for all: We have a stall

September 23: Joint walk with Jonathan Meares, Manager Highgate Wood comparing oak decline in the two woods.

NEWS FROM THE WOOD

At last the wood is fully in leaf probably 3 to 4 weeks later than last year. First out as usual were the hawthorn and elder at the end of March and by the middle of April the hornbeams were greening up - but it was not until the end of the month that the oaks were in leaf. The ash as usual will be last. Sadly we have discovered some ash saplings with die-back disease



Tree with Ash Die Back - photo by Stephen Middleton

.David Darrell- Lambert's walks and talks revealed that the wood is still a haven for breeding birds, and the coppicing and pond creation we have carried out in the last few years have provided a rich and diverse habitat for birds and the insects that they need to feed their young. A pair of mistle thrush are nesting in the woods at present.



Breeding frogs in upper pond - photo by Michael Johns

Frog spawn, and the subsequent tadpoles, have been found in all four ponds, including the newly re-opened 'dog pool'. This pond, with its ornamental edging created by the Victorians, is below the Witches Coven and leads to an attractive path down to the Wood Vale entrance. More work will be needed by volunteers to keep this path clear of the ever-encroaching brambles.

The goat willows with their fluffy yellow catkins were a colourful early spring sight. There are male and female plants and only the male bears the 'pussy' willow colourful flowers. Most of these trees re-emerged from seedlings when coppicing was done in the valley of the wood.

THE FUTURE OF LONDON PARKS AND GREEN SPACES:

We don't usually stray outside Queen's Wood but there is great concern about the future of London's green spaces. After decades of bringing parks back to life with funding and staff and therefore greatly increased use, there are new threats from creeping development at the edges and reduced funding which in time will result in them being less attractive and therefore less used in spite of the well known benefits to health and well being. We are lucky in Haringey in that we have a newly appointed Nature Conservation Officer, Ed Santry and we

hope you will have a chance to meet him at a future event. As well, Haringey still has a dedicated Parks team but all the green spaces in Haringey rely on volunteers. Here in Queen's Wood we have a loyal group of friends and volunteers who are the eyes and ears caring for the wood – essential for the future.



Volunteers in Queen's Wood - photo by Michael Johns

RUBBLE IN THE WOOD

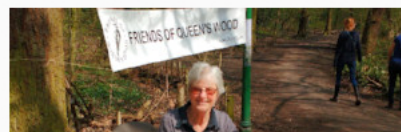
Next to the Muswell Hill Road entrance there is a Buildbase builder's yard. The rear part of this is away from the road and on a high slope above the wood. Some time ago we noticed that large quantities of rubble and waste materials had been dumped on the slope to the extent that a lot of it has spilled into the wood.

Buildbase accepted responsibility and devised a scheme for removing the rubble and then building a retaining slope above the wood. The scheme was discussed with the Friends, and with other neighbours, and received planning permission.

Construction is now about to start. The agreed method has all access to be made from the builder's yard and will not involve any vehicles coming into the wood. The new slope will be constructed of gabions (wire containers filled with rocks), and will be planted to give a natural green finish. The area is well away from paths in the wood, and hardly visible.

We will be working with Haringey council to minimise any effect on the area of the wood affected.

HELP RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS



We hold recruitment stalls in the wood outside the café three or four times a year as people walking through the wood are often interested in our work and want to become



Penny Sewell at recruitment stall, April 2018. Photo by Alison Watson

and want to become Friends. It would be wonderful to have some more Friends on the stall – for an hour or two at most and it is fun as you can see from the photo! Please do offer – you would be on the stall with someone who has done it before.

MUNTJAC NEAR THE WOOD

But not yet in it?

One of our members took this photograph of a muntjac deer in their garden adjacent to the wood. Muntjac have also been spotted in Highgate Wood, but not yet, as far as we know, in Queen's Wood.



Photo by Alison Steadman

MEMBERSHIP:

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 2018 please do so NOW. If we have not heard from you by the end of May your name will be taken off our lists. If you are not sure, email Alison and ask: alison.watson9@gmail.com. Details on our website www.fqw.org.uk

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WORKING PARTY DATES

27 May

24 June

29 July

from 10.30 to noon. Meet at the Lodge. Tools are provided but please bring your own gloves and if possible a mobile phone to keep in touch with the working party leader.

YOUR COMMITTEE:

At the AGM, the following were elected:

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



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