

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 Spring Newsletter 2020

www.fqw.org.uk



Annual General Meeting 1 April - 7.30pm The Lodge, off Muswell Hill Road, N10 3JP

Followed by a slide show and talk by David Darrell Lambert on the results of his recent bird survey in the wood.



Eurasian Hobby, over Queen's Wood - photo David Darrell Lambert

This is your chance to have a say, join the Committee (contact one of the Committee in advance) or tell us your ideas about how you would like to

take part. We would so welcome offers of help perhaps with a special job, or leading a walk or activity.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

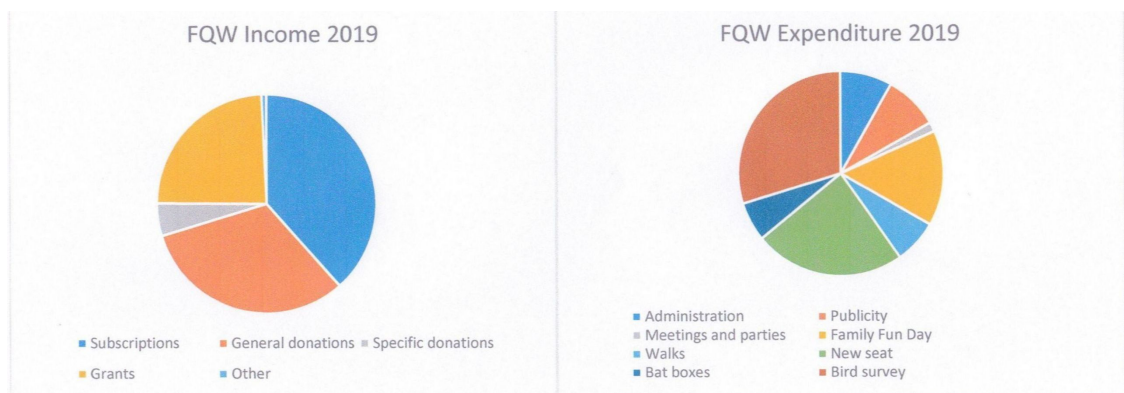
5 April David Bevan will lead his annual spring walk looking at flowers and all things that grow in the wood. Meet Sunday 2.00pm at The Lodge.

17 May Walk in the wood with Sarah Graham Brown and Lucy Roots: Ancient Woodland trees and other plants which indicate that the wood is at least 400 years old. Meet Sunday 2.00pm at The Lodge

14 June Dan Hackett is going to set up a moth trap on Saturday evening and will explore what it has captured with a walk the next day to look at the insect life in the wood. Meet Sunday 10.30am at The Lodge. Please note the time. It has to be early for the moths!

HOW WE RAISED AND SPENT OUR MONEY IN 2019

You may have wondered how we spend the money you give us.



We get income from three main sources: subscriptions, general donations, mainly from members but sometimes from other wood users, and grants.

In 2019 our income was £4,137, of which 38% came from subscriptions, 32% from general donations, 24% from grants from Haringey and 5% from a specific donation.

We spent £4,039, 9% on necessary administration although, of course, most is done on a voluntary basis by the committee and other members. 9% went on the website and other publicity. Social events such as the

annual party and the AGM accounted for 1%. 22% of expenditure was on events in the wood – guided walks and the Family Fun Day, though once again a huge proportion of the activity is provided by volunteers and being charged low rates. Volunteers – both members of FQW and members of TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) who also work in the wood undertake much conservation work free of charge.

The rest of our expenditure (59%) went on projects to benefit the wood or monitor its health – in 2019, these consisted of the installation of a new bench, additional bat boxes, and the sponsorship of a survey of breeding birds in the wood.

NEWS FROM THE WOOD

After a dreary, mild and wet autumn and early winter the woods are very muddy and the streams and drainage channels full of water and blocked with leaves. The ponds are all full but the flags, yellow irises, are showing above the water. With these high temperatures we can expect frog spawn in the next few weeks- sometimes as early as March 10th.



Frog pond - photo Michael Johns

The spears of Lord and Ladies (Arum) were poking above the ground in January. Other Arum names are Jack in the Pulpit, Willy Lilly and Devils and Angels. Native bluebells and daffodils buds are now there so time for our valuable volunteers from FQW and TCV to put protective hedges around them as occasionally they get picked and trampled upon.

The recent storm Ciara did very little damage, perhaps because the winds were from the south, but by the time you read this storm Dennis will have arrived. The council has been prompt in clearing other trees where they block main paths and we are thankful to members who report these incidents. We are conscious that many of the paths are very muddy and met recently with a council officer to discuss what can be done in the long term. Meanwhile volunteers will clear some channels and remove some of the leaf debris on the steps near Priory Gardens which is a problem. New

bird/bat boxes have been installed near the Priory Gardens entrance to the wood.



Newly planted hazel whip - photo Michael Johns

A line of hazels has been planted on the old boundary bank to protect it from erosion and this will be managed by volunteers as the trees grow up. FQW would also like to plant a hazel grove on the open muddy land near Build Base boundary. The bare earth is encouraging re-emergence of Japanese Knotweed, as it thrives in light, and the shade of trees would inhibit it. We do hope to get permission from the council soon for this work. Our step toward CO2 capture!

QUEEN'S WOOD GREEN FLAG REPORT FOR 2019



We were delighted to learn that we have been given a very positive report. Findings included: Our publicity has good photos showing what's happening, nicely written, easy to read and very informative communications and we have good interpretation boards. We are well covered for health, safety and security. The use of recycled products was noticed and that bike racks have been provided. We were said to have a really good approach, including a lot of word of mouth. The final sentence reads "It looks a very well run, managed site which is using its elements to achieve a far higher outcome than the sum. Well done."

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WOOD

Last year, in the run up to the Green flag review, the council managed to allocate some funds to repair and improve facilities in the wood. We suggested priorities, and significant repairs were made to the worst of the paths near the Lodge, at the Connaught Gardens entrance and between the Wood Vale entrance and the Frogpool. The handrail in the Priory Gardens entrance was repaired and extended, and 'No Cycling' notices painted at the main entrances. We are in discussion with the council about possible work this year, mainly concentrated on further path improvements. The council has also started to replace old litter bins with a standard new design in all open spaces.



No cycling sign, Connaught Gardens entrance: Photo Michael Johns

Help please! You may have noticed that an increasing number of groups are using the wood, schools, pre-school and adults. The Council is compiling a list, as all groups have to be registered and use of the wood agreed. There is a fee (not of course for individuals). If you know of groups, please could you let one of the Committee know their name (you might want to ask them first if they are registered).

And a little more help!

Throughout the spring and summer we hold **recruitment stalls** near the café. This is a very pleasant way to spend time, talking to the walkers and families, a number of whom are visiting for the first time. We tell people about FQW and invite them to join and this has proven

to be a good way to increase our membership. We will be holding stalls on 29 March, 18 April and 24 May and if you can offer an hour morning or afternoon, you would be with someone who has done it before. Offers of help to alison.watson9@gmail.com.



FQW member Penny Sewell at a recruitment stall



And finally a puzzle:

This plaque, which was taken from the wood by a souvenir hunter many years ago, has been sent to us. We think it most probably came from the area of the wood toward Summersby Road. If you know anything about it please contact someone on the Committee.

WORKING PARTY DATES

29 March
26 April
31 May
28 June
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:

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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