



FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD Summer Newsletter 2017

www.fqw.org.uk



SUNDAY JUNE 4 - WATER SOURCES IN THE WOODS

Find out about the sources of the River Moselle in Queen's Wood and how Highgate Wood is also connected to the River Brent with Sarah Graham-Brown from FQW and Jonathan Meares Manager Highgate Wood . Meet 2.00pm at the Lodge café.



River Moselle near its source



A dry watercourse under a sleeper bridge

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

HELP COUNT THE HEDGEHOGS IN QUEEN'S WOOD

At our AGM in March, Dr. Chris Carbone from UCL who is a specialist in camera traps, talked about the studies he has done across the globe capturing wild life on film with the purpose of seeing how it is doing. Recently he has set up cameras in Highgate Wood and the allotments in Alexandra Palace to see if any hedgehogs showed up. There were many shots in the allotments but he does not know if this is the same hedgehog going backwards and forwards! We agreed to work with him on a study in Queen's Wood which will be starting in July, setting up 30 cameras which will be re-positioned after two weeks. Ideally, some will be in gardens backing onto the wood so could anyone who has a suitable garden, please contact Lucy (email below). The rest will be hidden around the woods.

Volunteers will be needed on three days to help with setting up the camera traps, moving them after a fortnight and taking them up at the end of the

project. Anyone interested should **contact Lucy Roots on jlnew@blueyonder.co.uk**.



EVENT COMING UP - AUGUST BAT WALK WITH CINDY BLANEY – date to follow

NEWS FROM THE WOOD - MAY 2017

Lucy Roots

In spite of the driest April for 24 years the woodland looks as fresh as ever. The wood anemones flourished and the bluebells were particularly good. Earlier there was a good show of the small native daffodils, or Lenten Lilies, by the steps on the Capital Ring Path. These were planted a number of years ago by FQW volunteers and contrast with the heavier non - native daffodils planted by the Victorians near the Muswell Hill Rd entrance.



Native daffodil near Capital Ring path

The bird walks run by David Darrell - Lambert were well attended and there was an increase in the number of blackcaps and chiffchaffs. The latter have an annoying repetitive call but are easily identified. Thanks to an FQW member the cost for this was underwritten but it was so well attended that his generous offer was hardly needed.

On a less welcome note we have had two acts of environmental vandalism in the wood. A large area of leaf mould and top soil was removed near Queen's Wood Road exposing roots of the already vulnerable oak trees. Presumably



Bogbean in Queen's Wood

this was then sold or used on gardens or allotments? Also, under a large dangerous swing, long steps were cut in the clay bank to make access easier - again exposing roots and causing more soil erosion.

In one of the ponds a number of bog bean plants are evident. Their pink flowers are beautiful and we hope they will flourish in spite of the lack of water. In the Frog pool the marsh marigolds are out and the yellow flag iris will soon appear. Work to remove some of the silt from the ponds will be done soon by volunteers.

SWINGS IN THE WOOD You will have seen a number of rope swings in different places in the wood. Unfortunately one adult had a serious accident – the swings are put up unofficially and while this is a lovely thing to do, it is not always safe so the Council now has a policy of cutting down the swings when they are reported.



QUIZ PHOTO

Can you identify where this is to be found in Queen's Wood (and what it is)?



Answer at foot of email - more questions in future issues!

JUNE 3 HELP PLEASE! We hope to increase our membership and will be holding a recruitment stall outside the café on June 3. If anyone can give an hour to help, just sitting at a table and talking to passers by, please get in touch as there are not enough of us on the Committee to do everything! **email alison on alisonwatson9@gmail.com**



Vivienne Preston at a recruitment stall 2013

WORKING PARTY DATES

28 May

25 June

30 July

No Working Party in August

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.

Photos by Michael Johns and Maria Precedo

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

Answer to Quiz Question: Coming from Wood Vale entrance on the left opposite the coppiced area, this small concrete art work is a left over from a long ago art exhibition,