



FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD Spring Newsletter 2017

www.fqw.org.uk



AGM - THURSDAY 23 MARCH AT 7.30pm in the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road

This is when you will be voting in the Committee for next year and we would welcome new members. Do let us know if you are interested. Contact John Dorken, our Chairperson, at info@fqw.org.uk to discuss.

Followed by Dr. Chris Carbone Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Zoology: 'Where are the hedgehogs? The use of camera-traps for surveying hedgehogs and other wildlife'

There were hedgehogs around Queen's Wood some years ago – might they still be here and how can we help them return? Chris Carbone is a hedgehog specialist working at London Zoo.



Chris Carbone, ZSL

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday February 18th

Come and join the Friends for an hour's presentation of different aspects of our work and a slide show. 2.00-3.00pm at Muswell Hill Library.

Sunday April 9th :

David Bevan will lead his annual flower walk. He recently quoted Oliver Rackham who said we only ever see 1/3 of the flowers in any wood, as 2/3 are in the seed bank. David will tell us more: Meet at the Lodge 2.00pm.



Wood Anemones

Further ahead:

A walk in May looking at what makes an ancient woodland, and a joint walk on 4th June with Jonathon Meares Manager of Highgate Wood, looking at the ponds in both Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood.

WHERE IS THE RIVER MOSELLE?

The River Moselle started with tributaries on the west side of the ridge between Highgate and Muswell Hill, before meandering through Hornsey and Wood Green to join the River Lea in Tottenham. During the 19th and 20th centuries most of it was straightened and put into pipes. However, parts of two of the tributaries are still in the open in Queen's Wood. They head towards Wood Vale but disappear before reaching it, although the sound of rushing water underground can be heard there. David Warren is working with Haringey Council to investigate these and other pipes in the wood to find out where they all are and which ones still function. Perhaps we could then have more of the

streams on the surface?



Where the River Moselle leaves Queen's Wood underground

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Nature's Calendar survey is underway! Help us chart the first signs of spring in conjunction with The Woodland Trust. Simply jot down your first sightings of flowers, birds, and budburst on various trees and shrubs in Queen's Wood, and send them to FQW. Even a single observation is valuable, and don't worry! You don't need to be an expert to participate. For more info, contact precedomaria@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE WOOD - FEBRUARY 2017

Lucy Roots

In spite of the cold and gloom on the first day of January, how cheering it was to hear the greater spotted woodpecker already drumming and marking his territory. Earlier in the autumn David Darrell – Lambert had recorded a number of migrating redwings flying overhead in the dark. Their sound is clear to a bird expert.



Redwings - photo by David Darrell-Lambert

A number of oak trees in the wood have orange circles on them which mean that they have a potentially unsafe branch which will be trimmed by a council contractor. The council have already cut down the old leaning plane tree, planted by the Victorians, which was almost falling down. The roots would have torn up and damaged the nearby path leading to the Frogpool. We recently discovered a wild apple tree near the Wood Vale entrance as the ground was covered with small green fruit. A willow was also found nearby which is different from the goat willow which is now common in the wood. Full identification of these unusual trees for the wood will follow.

A member, who lives in Connaught Gardens, has thanked us for the work done by TCV volunteers to drain the higher ground on the RHS of the path as you walk uphill towards Highgate. It does seem to have made an improvement but some paths will always be muddy in heavy rain. The nursery children have been seen helping with the drainage by playing with bits of pipe which they use to divert streamlets on the paths back into ditches. Fun for them and useful for us too.



Cleared drainage channels near Connaught Gardens path

In January, February and March FQW volunteers will be working alongside TCV volunteers. This will mean that our volunteers acquire new skills and benefit from the more experienced TCV group.

QUEEN'S WOOD ON AIR

On January 19 a BBC Radio 4 programme 'Open Country' at 3pm talked about the case for designating London as a National Park City, featured Queen's Wood as an example of ancient woodland in an urban setting.

HISTORY OF THE WOOD

Mike Hacker, a long-standing member of the Friends has been involved in a number of small scale archaeological investigations since 2010 and he is writing an article which looks at what they tell us alongside documents and maps. It will shortly be on our website so do watch out for it – and probably a summary in our next newsletter.

Subs: Sorry but yet another reminder that if you have not yet paid your 2017 sub, you may not get more newsletters etc. If you are not sure please check with Alison. There is a form on the website. And many thanks to everyone who has renewed and the very generous donations we have been sent.

And another thing.... A kind walker has left a bag of used tennis balls near the Connaught Gardens entrance with a note (presumably for dog walkers) to help themselves!

WORKING PARTY DATES

26 February

26 March

30 April

28 May

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 Sarah Graham Brown

Citizen Science Maria Precedo

Publicity Janet Shapiro