



## **FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD Summer Newsletter 2019**

[www.fqw.org.uk](http://www.fqw.org.uk)



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### **FAMILY FUN DAY 7 JULY FROM 2.00 IN WITCHES COVEN ALL WELCOME**

Free activities for everyone including story telling, bug hunts, rope spider web and many more activities. See our website for map of the wood showing entrances and there will be signs in the wood to direct you.

The Committee would hugely appreciate some help with the FFD, either with advance publicity such as distributing leaflets or on the day helping at a stall for even an hour. And if you have a skill to offer, that would be great but not necessary! Please email [alison.watson9@gmail.com](mailto:alison.watson9@gmail.com).



Family Fun Day 2018

**ALSO FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

**Sunday 2 June: Family Bug Hunt with Dan Hackett, Entomologist.** Meet 2.00pm at the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road.

**Bat walk** in August, date to follow

**Sunday 1 September** FQW will have a **stall in Highgate Wood** for their Community day

**FIRE ALERT!** The wood is full of dead timber and in dry weather there is serious risk of fires so please be extra careful and if you see a fire in progress ring 999 or if you see someone building one ring 101.

## TALK BY NEW CONSERVATION OFFICER OF HARINGEY COUNCIL

**Ed Santry's talk** to many Friends at our AGM covered 'green' issues across Haringey. He said that Haringey has 58 parks categorised by importance and Queen's Wood is one of only three falling into the second most important category: District Park. Ed is working on the Bio-diversity plan last published in 2009 which will feed into the Parks and Green Spaces strategy later this year. He will hold drop in sessions to consult on this plan soon. Ed is researching how best to control some of the invasive species which are arriving (see article below), particularly Japanese Knotweed which we have had in the wood and still have laurel and Floating Pennywort.



Japanese Knotweed



Floating Pennywort

There are three ancient woodlands in the borough, of which Queen's Wood is one and Ed is looking into the management needs specific to ancient woodland. He will himself be working closely with us on this. One of the main challenges is how to combine the conservation of the wood with making it more accessible. He wants to tighten up rules for events in the wood and will issue certificates for those approved. Friends would be able to challenge the organisers and ask to see the certificate if necessary.

Drainage is a very big issue across Haringey and they are doing surveys working with Thames Water to understand water flows. For Queen's Wood Haringey will be investigating how water can be held in the wood by opening up streams and creating retention pools which would help to prevent flooding further downstream.



Existing frog pond

## NEWS FROM THE WOOD

Spring has sprung and is continuing and the cold winds mean that blossoms last longer. The warm spells in February and April resulted in wonderful flowers on wood anemones, bluebells, hawthorn and lesser celandines. The word Celandine means 'swallow' and was supposed to arrive with the birds of that name but in fact appears as early as February. Richard Mabey suggests that the reference is to the Greater Celandine which does appear later and is less common in Queen's Wood. Another local



Hawthorn in bloom

name was 'spring's messenger'.

A huge hornbeam has fallen in the wood tearing up some of the medieval boundary bank. It is now a wonderful climbing place for children, and we will be consulting with Highgate Wood as to how to protect the bank. Trees growing on the bank are probably remains of the ancient hedgerow which was planted as an extra defence. In some places you can see horizontal stems where the original hedge was 'layered' to thicken it up. Layering means cutting the stems part way through and then bending them over and interweaving them.

Members may have seen that a substantial structure was put up in the wood a little while ago. The Council decided to take it down, a decision which the FQW committee supported because the wood is a local nature reserve, was put up without permission and involved significant damage to nearby coppiced trees. We hope members will support our and the Council's efforts to keep the wood as untouched as possible.



Greater Spotted Woodpecker - photo by Barrie Davis

.Two very successful bird walks were held and we saw or heard tree creeper, nuthatch, mistle and song thrush, goldcrest and two kinds of woodpeckers as well as the usual garden birds. No sparrows or starlings though. We observed parakeets feeding their young in a nest hole in an oak, previously used by green woodpeckers. David Darrell-Lambert is conducting our third commissioned Bird

Survey and when the results come out it will be interesting to see if we still maintain a healthy population of breeding birds. He will be giving a talk on the results of his survey later.

### **FLY TIPPING IN THE WOOD**

Our members sometimes notice fly tipping, especially along Queen's Wood Road but are unaware of how to report it. First, if you actually see somebody committing a fly tip there is a form on the Haringey Council website which allows you to make a report, including uploading a picture; [www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/rubbish-and-recycling/street-cleansing/duped-rubbish-enforcement](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/rubbish-and-recycling/street-cleansing/duped-rubbish-enforcement). Even if you have not seen someone do it, you can still file a report as above to get the rubbish removed. Members of the Committee once looked through dumped rubbish and found an envelope which enabled the perpetrator to be found so that is also an option!

### **OAK PROCESSIONARY**

**MOTH** This incomer has now populated all the oak woods around including Queen's Wood and in extreme numbers can cause defoliation. This year a 10% increase in the population is forecast. Risk to the public is small but the Council,



Oak processionary moth caterpillar

in collaboration with the Forestry Commission, is spraying or removing nests near to busiest places, eg along roads or near playgrounds. Spraying is being kept to a minimum as of course it destroys all other insects as well. If you do see a nest, do not touch the caterpillars as the irritating hairs can cause very unpleasant rash or allergic reaction.

## WORKING PARTY DATES

30 June

28 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.

There will be no working party in August

## 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



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