



A round-up of information, news and activities in Queen's Wood, Muswell Hill



Our AGM

Thursday March 24 at 7.30pm at The Lodge Muswell Hill Road

Speaker Diana Clements "The Geology of Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood".

Diana works with the London Geodiversity Partnership on sites of geological interest in London

The Committee always welcomes new members and offers of help. We are in need of someone to assist us with publicity and social media on a voluntary basis, so if you're interested, please get in touch.

And

Saturday February 14 at 2.00pm at The Lodge

Veteran Tree Walk with Woodsman Iain Loasby – don't miss this treat.

We are sad to have lost two Friends recently. John Barcroft was on the Committee and monitored litter collection in the wood for a number of years. Bob Warbus was a regular working party member and supported all our events. We miss them.

Testing the Waters

By Jane Warren

Last summer we started regular checking of the health of the water in the Wood. This is our contribution to a study of the River Moselle by Thames 21. The Moselle starts with springs along the Highgate ridges and runs through Wood Green and Tottenham before joining the River Lee, by which time it is often polluted. Queens Wood has two of the tributaries. One starts behind Muswell Hill Road and is tested where it crosses the new coppiced area. Another starts behind Buildbase and is tested where it crosses the Capital Ring, and again in the Frogpool. We test the pH range (acidity), and the level of phosphates and nitrates. So far our testing has not revealed any pollution.

Membership

Many thanks to everyone who have sent their subs and for generous donations. If you have not renewed please do so now or this may be the last newsletter you receive. Membership form on back of winter newsletter or our website.

If you are not sure please contact alison.watson9@gmail.com.



Water test card

Other dates for your diary

Bird Walks

18 April 2015

Dawn Chorus walk 5.00am.

Main walk 8.00am with David Darrell-Lambert Ornithologist.

Children over 8 welcome.

£10 per head adults, £5 children

10% of ticket cost will go to FQW.

To book a place email

david@birdbrainuk.com or

ring 07977407550

Spring Flower walk

Sunday April 12

with David Bevan

Meet 2.00pm at The Lodge

Boundary works

By John Dorken

At last - after almost two years since going out to consultation with our members - our plans for restorative and landscaping works at the boundary between the Wood and the Lodge Garden will soon be coming to fruition. Tenders for the work have been received and the work is due to start in February. So, come the spring, this whole area should have a fresh look!

News from the Wood February 2015

By Lucy Roots



The frosty weather in January has made the woods look attractive but at the time of writing no snow yet, which does transform the trees when it comes. In spite of the cold we heard a greater spotted woodpecker drumming away on January 16th to attract a mate and mark its territory.

Various natural springs in the wood are causing very muddy paths, particularly on the western top path near the Lodge

and on the valley path to Connaught Gardens. The volunteers from TCV tried to alleviate this problem by building a French Drain on the latter path near the bench and informal swing. A deep trench was filled with gravel to divert water away from the path and into the Moselle course which runs nearby. Unfortunately this does not seem to have solved the problem and the spring has emerged at a lower level. Further thought is being given to this problem.

The Friends and the council have been concerned about a serious slippage of earth on the southern boundary of the wood. Buildbase have now put in a planning application, (HGY/2015/0005) to shore up this huge bank and correct various faults at the site which would impact on the wood if left. A detailed Ecological Survey of the land has been made and it mentions it being a possible habitat for the nationally rare Jewel beetle *Agrilus* Sp already present in the wood, and in restoring the site the builders will provide habitats for possible stag beetles. When finished this will improve the look of the wood and protect it for the future. We will be working to ensure the construction process itself causes no damage.

It also reports that 39 hedgehogs were found in 2009 453 metres north of the site. If any members have found hedgehogs in their gardens at the edge of the wood in the last few years please tell us. In restoring the site the builders will provide habitats for possible stag beetles and it seems that there will only be a very low level possible impact on the wood.

A grant has been obtained by the Nature Conservation officer to remove some of the holly which is taking over large parts of the wood. Tall holly trees will be left as they are good sites for roosting owls but lower spreading growth will be removed and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth. This work will take place in the most recent coppiced area near Muswell Hill Road, at the back of Priory Gardens and near the Summersby Rd entrance to the wood.

Photography kindly provided by: Michael Johns & Alison Watson

Design by: Christiane Hirt

Working party dates

Sunday, 22 February,
from 10.30am to noon

Sunday, 29 March,
from 10.30am to noon

Sunday, 26 April,
from 10.30am to noon

Sunday, 31 May
from 10.30am 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

Ecology liaison officer

Lucy Roots

Membership Alison Watson

Infrastructure David Warren

Arts events Jane Warren

Conservation

Sarah Graham-Brown

Woodsmen Iain Loasby

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