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| **Our Next Green Spaces meeting - 16th January 2024** Happy New Year. Lots of material in this newsletter covering our next meeting, information on the Asian Hornet, proposed budget cuts, a new Whats app group for Cool Oak (Welsh Harp) and some volunteering opportunities.The next meeting of the Network is on**Date: Tuesday 16th January 2024** **Venue: The Heritage Room, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs NW4****Start time: 7.30pm** **Agenda**1.  Welcome, Introductions and apologies2.  Asian Hornet - Lucie Chaumeton (see item below entitled Catch) will discuss this emerging problem issue.3. Matt Gunyon - Head of Greenspaces. Whats happening across Barnet including:      i)  Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - whats happening and emerging consultation proposals      ii)  Budget pressures for 2024/25 [(see list of savings proposed here)](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=bc308983a0&e=7a6cffc17a)      iii)  Any other issues 4. Issues from our spaces - around our open spaces - 60 seconds on key issues/events that Friends groups and others wish to raise.5.  Any other business - and any outstanding issues from our previous meeting [(see minutes here)](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=c56e1bb5b3&e=7a6cffc17a)6.  Proposed Meeting dates for rest of 2024.      Tuesday 19th March      Tuesday 2nd July      Tuesday 1st October      Tuesday 14th January 2025 |

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| A logo with orange letters  Description automatically generatedCATCH Launches! CATCH stands for Community Action To Combat (Asian) Hornet.  As reported in our October issue, local beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton of Miel de Lucie is committed to slowing the Asian Hornet invasion, which usually progresses at 60km a year and already reached Hackney in September. Sadly our native insects have had no time to develop defensive behaviour, so honeybees and other pollinators are perfect prey for the invaders. The best response is to trap Asian Hornet queens as soon as they leave hibernation (when the temperature reaches 14ÕC for three consecutive days) and before they establish their nests. Lucie told The Archer, “Worker numbers then grow until peak predation period in August/September, which continues until first frosts. I will be distributing information posters around the area, as well as free traps made from upcycled materials.  Traps should be deployed every 350m to cover a hornet’s typical flying range of one kilometre, and it’s illegal to trap then release a hornet.  The most humane way to kill them is in the freezer.” Lucie now needs readers’ help in (a) sourcing materials for traps, and (b) hosting and monitoring the traps. Lucie needs: * Green semi-transparent bottles with their screw tops.Two bottles make one trap (see image), with exits allowing smaller insects to escape.Please leave suitable bottles in the porch of 18 Beech Drive: sorry no clear plastic (Lucie has to paint those) and no San Pellegrinos (too pointy).
* 50 hosts by late February: if you’re interested in hosting a trap email your postcode to Ef.catch@gmail.com and Lucie will contact you if your site is suitable (to ensure even distribution).
* Contributions – £200 would help pay for the commercially sold bait “Trappit”, which attracts hornets but repels bees and moths.

 If you think you see an Asian hornet in the Spring, email a photo to ef.catch@gmail.com and Lucie will follow up.  More news in Spring, and meanwhile see [www.bit.ly/mieldelucie](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=7e2f3712c8&e=7a6cffc17a) for further information.   |

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| **Cool Oak**In 2021 I formed Cool Oak, an environmental pressure group. Its aim was to reverse decades of neglect at my local Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp).Cool Oak believes in direct engagement with those in power. We talk to owners (Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council and Brent Council). We speak to regulators. We propose improvements and solutions. We research the law. We fight neglect and bad stewardship. We try to inspire change.In the past 3 years we have moved the dial. Money is now being spent on restoration and renewal - habitat regeneration, new bird breeding rafts, debris removal. Canal and River Trust have just told us they are now preparing a 5-year restoration plan and 30-year stewardship plan for the fragile marshes. We are currently fighting the planned 200m Barratt footbridge over the protected northern end of the reservoir, and advising Canal and River Trust on a new wetlands plan for the north-west shoreline.Why am I telling you all this? Because now we are established, we have just launched a new WhatsApp group for news, discussion and volunteer opportunities, to get more people involved with us and one of London’s key SSSI green spaces.If you’d like to be added simply use this invite link -  [https://chat.whatsapp.com/KogbXnXRSyRCbKei61hPun](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=26374f12e9&e=7a6cffc17a)If you want to learn more about us, visit cooloakgroup.comJoin us as we continue to inspire change at Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp) ✊🌿🦢Thanks for reading.Best, Ben Watt  |

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| **Families Into Nature, Connecting and Helping [FINCH]****Would you like to encourage more local family groups to enjoy and help nature in greenspaces through your group’s activities?** Would you like some ideas for getting local families actively engaged with nature on your site?If so the RSPB’s FINCH (Families Into Nature Connecting and Helping) resource can help.  [https://bosf.org.uk/projects/finch/resource/](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=036fa37169&e=7a6cffc17a)  is a practical guide packed with helpful information and guidance **for community groups**. It’s designed to help groups, community professionals and leaders to choose and offer nature-based activities for families in greenspaces, helping them to connect with nature and encourage action to help it.The resource was developed through a pilot project in Birmingham and is hosted on Birmingham Open Spaces Forum’s webpage. Its content has been informed by insight from families in diverse/disadvantaged urban areas and includes self-led group training/planning activities, relevant guidance, and instructions for running a range of outdoor activities for families.  The activities include different categories such as Finding Nature, Helping Nature and Arts and Crafts and vary in delivery style – some are as simple as providing families with a printed sheet to use as they explore the greenspace independently, whilst there is also guidance on how to design and run your own family wildlife walk or nature trail.With your support the RSPB can gather feedback to help them improve the resource, learn how useful it is for community organisations and discover how activities are received by families.**Please download the resource from:** [**https://bosf.org.uk/projects/finch/resource/**](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=cb195b9f3b&e=7a6cffc17a)Once you’ve looked through the resource and/or tried some of the activities **please provide feedback using the relevant online forms** (links can be found on the landing page and throughout the resource).For further information contact rosalind.allen@rspb.org.uk   |

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|  Volunteering opportunities**January 11 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding removal project / vegetation management - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=bdfbf04805&e=7a6cffc17a) **Saturday, 13 January 10-2**[Welsh Harp Cleanup - Dewatering Special Edition Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=26d35772c2&e=7a6cffc17a)  January 20 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding removal project / vegetation management - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=533f4eb30a&e=7a6cffc17a)  January 25 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm[Action for Silk Stream - River Action Day at Watling Park, Barnet - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=23e8e8cca8&e=7a6cffc17a)  January 29 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding Removal Event #1 - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=5b8b4b1ad4&e=7a6cffc17a)  February 14 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding Removal Event #1 - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=7113e0bd18&e=7a6cffc17a)  February 20 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding Removal Event #1 - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=037aeab804&e=7a6cffc17a)  February 22 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding Removal Event #1 - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=eb55319e14&e=7a6cffc17a)  February 29 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm[Dollis Brook Toe-boarding Removal Event #1 - Thames21](https://blog.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ace99269fce794654ba1c69a&id=2e195fa607&e=7a6cffc17a)   |

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