

Hampton Heath Friends 2023



HAMPTON HEATH

It's rich with wild flowers, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, lizards even rare water beetles.

January

- Big Clean Up Year 2: Focused on areas between David Lloyd and Staines Road.
- 27 sacks of recycling and litter removed.
- Litter-picking extended to DL Golf Course perimeter.
- Vegetation on DL to Staines Road footpath cut back.
- Corn Spurrey (IUCN Red-Listed) recorded in a second location on site.
- Richmond Local Area Fund bid submitted.
- Amphibian and reptile survey arranged for Spring.
- Tree Preservation Orders discussed with Richmond Trees Officer.
- Site walk with Richmond Borough Ecologist.



February

- Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee and frog seen on the heath
- Heather, Bell Heather, Dwarf Gorse, Self-Heal, Mouse Ear Hawkweed planted on site.
- Littering of wind-blown disposable gloves raised with Sainsbury.
- Golf ball collection.
- Bramble removed from boundary ditch.
- Quotes/costs obtained from contractors for new pond and path projects
- 23 sacks of rubbish collected.



March

- Over 30 Bee Orchids discovered on golf practice range.
- Boundary Ditch clearance completed.
- Crane Valley Partnership Community Fund - bid submitted.
- Tree/shrub dwelling micro-fauna survey finds 42 new species in one afternoon.
- Liaison with David Lloyd's new manager, Sarah.
- Habitat approach to managing unused areas of grass in golf practice range agreed.
- Bee Orchid translocation agreed.
- Habitat management of Practice Range Pond agreed.
- Corrugated refugia mats for reptile/amphibian survey installed on site.
- Recorded 57 new observations and 42 different identifications of mini-beasts, lichens and moss.
- 14 sacks of rubbish collected.



April

- Little Owl spotted
- Management of Practice Range Pond begins – willow coppicing.
- Aerial (drone) photographic and photometric survey completed.
- Success in CVP funding bid. Design development for new seasonal pond.
- First newt torch and bottle-trapping survey completed.
- New, improved Mailchimp newsletter emails begin.
- First Lizard records of 2023.
- Social Media survey carried out.
- Litter removal – 14 sacks.



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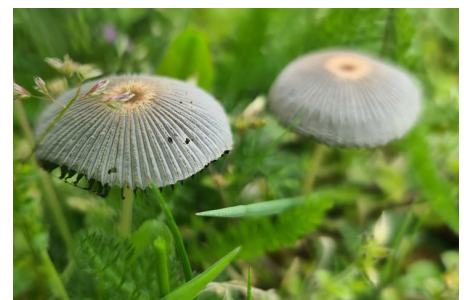
Hello Hampton Heath Friends!
Apparently, there's some kind of "major event" in London on Saturday, so I thought we'd try the working group on SUNDAY this week (full details below). But first...

Lizards!!!
I'm thrilled to report we had our first lizard sightings of the year last weekend. The black corrugated tiles which we put out at the end of March are doing their job, and are now being used by basking lizards in at least 2 separate locations... they've been seen sunning themselves on top, and been found sheltering below.

The fact that the lizards are being seen a good distance apart, could be an indicator that we have a really strong, healthy population. None have yet been spotted on the site of

May

- First lizard sightings of the year
- Sightings of Rose Chafer, Bronze Ground and Black Clock Beetles.
- Apple blossom on heath.
- Pleated Inkcap fungi found.
- Bee Orchid translocations completed.
- Annual General Meeting.
- Willow coppicing completed.
- Second newt torch and bottle-trapping survey completed. Plenty of male and female Smooth Newts found in most locations.
- Confirmed presence of rare Spangled Diving Beetles.
- Translocated Bee Orchids flower successfully.
- Litter removal - 15 sacks.



June

- Visit from London Amphibian and Reptile Group.
- Cut back brambles from Tennis Court Path.
- Refugia creation.
- Rake/remove from path margins.
- Bee Orchids still in flower.
- Mouse Ear Hawkweed in flower.
- Very low butterfly counts.
- Great Crested Newt eDNA testing carried out.
- Kick-About Area grass mown – raked and removed.
- Grass-snake nesting (grass-cuttings) heap built.
- 11 sacks of rubbish collected.



July

- Uxbridge Road path cleared of overhanging vegetation.
- Golf Course boundary path cleared of overhanging vegetation.
- Translocated Bell Heather begins to flower.
- New strimmer purchased and put to use.
- New posters put up on site to recruit more volunteers.
- Seasonal Pond side prepared in advance of start on site.
- Litter removal - 9 sacks.



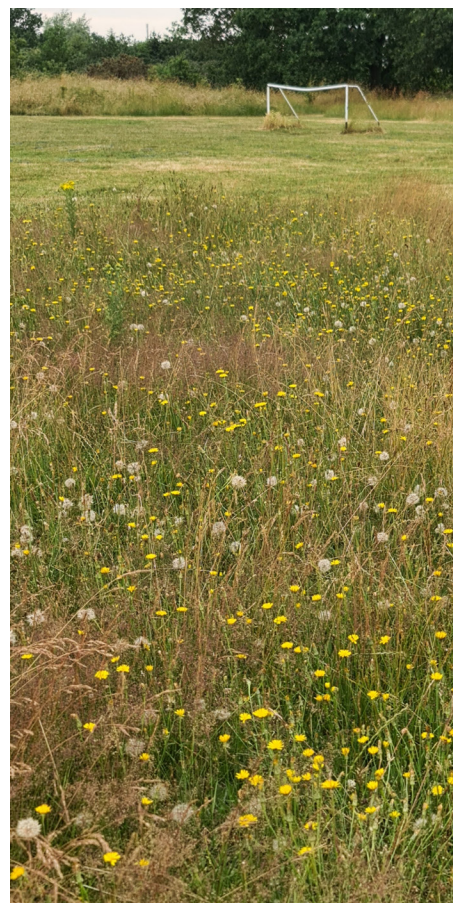
August

- New Seasonal Pond is dug by contractors.
- Levels are adjusted and fine-tuned by hand.
- Translocated Heather and Bell Heather in flower.
- Wasp Spiders recorded (first since 2021).
- First juvenile lizard records.
- Litter removal - 12 sacks.



September

- Grassland management begins – “mosaic cut”, rake and remove.
- Seasonal Pond’s dam dug by hand.
- Hobbies (falcons) recorded hunting dragonflies.
- Speckled Wood moth recorded.
- Wildflower seed sowing.
- Litter removal - 8 sacks.



October

- Longford Entrance (Uxbridge Road) – debris cleared, visibility opened out.
- Grassland “mosaic cut”, rake and remove continues.
- Wild Strawberry, Self Heal and Creeping Cinquefoil transplanted.
- Uxbridge Road Path cleared.
- Ivy Bees recorded.
- Litter removal – 12 sacks.



November

- Major effort to remove all the fireworks debris from site.
- Grassland “mosaic cut”, rake and remove continues.
- New Seasonal Pond begins to fill.
- Several new Waxcap fungi species recorded.
- First footpath puddles treated.
- Red Bartsia and other wildflower seed sown.
- Litter removal – 23 sacks.



December

- Grassland “mosaic cut”, rake and remove continues.
- Seasonal Pond fills to its intended level.
- Three new Heather patches planted.
- Litter Removal – 8 sacks (so far).



2023 in numbers

Total litter removed – (minimum) 176 sacks... probably quite a lot more thanks to the “free-lancers”.

Subscriber numbers – increased by one-third, from 80 to 109.

Total Funds raised from 2 successful bids – £6,600

1374 Total Inaturalist records (574 records in 2023).

551 Total species recorded (341 in 2023).

210 New species recorded in 2023.

8 species recorded which are highlighted in IUCN Red Lists.

Habitat Action Plans to which we have potential to contribute:

- ✓ Ancient and veteran trees
- ✓ Broadleaved woodland
- ✓ Hedgerows
- ✓ Lowland acid grassland
- ✓ Neutral grassland
- ✗ Private gardens
- ✗ Reedbeds
- ✗ Rivers and streams
- ✗ Tidal Thames



Species Action Plans to which we can contribute:

- ✓ Bats
- ✗ Native Black Poplar
- ✓ Hedgehogs
- ✗ House sparrow
- ✓ Song thrush
- ✓ Stag Beetle
- ✗ Swift
- ✗ Tower mustard
- ✗ Water vole
- ✓ White letter hairstreak and elm
- ✓ Amphibians and Reptiles
- ✓ Pollinators

Help us make a difference with your time

Join our friendly community, it's a great way to keep fit, meet new people and learn new skills.

Our volunteer days are usually 10am to around 12 on most Saturdays, followed by free tea/coffee or cold drink courtesy of David Lloyd. Anyone and everyone is welcome, under 18s must be accompanied.

For more details please contact hamptonheathfriends@outlook.com or visit www.hamptonheath.org

