



VOLUNTEERING -Keeping In Touch

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Dear Volunteers,

School visits have finished and we have had c. 1650 schoolchildren and youth visiting this academic year. A brilliant number of young folks (and our thanks to their teachers for coming along) who have been inspired to think a little differently about green spaces, minibeasts and what lives in ponds! Not forgetting, of course, the adults (a figure way over 200) who come along with these school groups in order to keep the children safe, who are introduced to the reserve and learn alongside the young people!

Thank you to the many volunteers that put in time in preparing for and helping at our Open Day on 8 July. As usual, there were some great activities for the children to do, families able to explore the reserve and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake too. Our next Open Day is Sunday 23 September with the theme of meadow creatures. If you are unsure what "meadow sweeping" is, do come along, find out and take part!

Caroline's recovery is steady but not as fast as she was hoping. We miss her guidance and enthusiasm. Hurry back!

A very successful Basic Life Support course was run at the centre and 11 of our volunteers attended. The resulting certification will be valid for 3 years. I have now received these and will be distributing them to those who came along. We will plan to hold another course next year.

London Wildlife Trust's wildlife experts will be in attendance at a Wildlife Walk on Tuesday 7 August 11am – 1pm at Oak Hill College, Chase Side, Southgate N14 4PS around the 60 acres of parkland, meeting at 10.50. You will need to book your free place at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wildlife-walk-tickets-48031135419>

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? On Sunday 23 September we have our last Open Afternoon of the year. This will have the theme of meadow creatures. Lots of volunteering opportunities! We need cake bakers. Also volunteers from 1.15 to help set up; volunteers from 2 to help with activities; volunteers from 2 to 4 to help with stewarding (welcoming our visitors) and then volunteers from 3.30 to 5.30 to help clearing up. If you are happy to stay right through, that would be wonderful. If you are able to help, please let us know by emailing info@fobec.org.uk and in the subject line put "Sunday 23 September".

WORKING PARTIES - In extremely hot weather, please remember hats and suncream and not to do more work than you feel comfortable with.

Sunday 5 August, 10 to 12.30 with a break at 11 for a cuppa. Meadow management requires some scything if the weather is fair. Pond management has maintenance demands of its own. And still the brambles grow.

Mondays, 1.30 – 3.30. All Mondays EXCEPTING the Bank Holiday (28 August).

Saturday 18 August, 1.30 – 4.00. Please encourage anyone you think might be interested to discuss volunteering with us to pop in and have a chat. If it has been a while since you have come along, why not pop in yourself? All dates are on the website. Reserve work will be the focus but, if there are skills you have that you think would be useful to us, please come along and have a chat. This will be the final Saturday volunteering session for a while.

Welcome to our new volunteer Seamus and thanks to him for getting involved.

Sue Bird, Volunteer Support Team

PLEASE NOTE: There is no on-site parking at the Centre now but hopefully the rugby season being over therefore Sunday parking on Byng Road should not be a problem. If you are coming by car an alternative might be parking at the lower end of Cavendish Road and walking along the footpath by the southern perimeter of the reserve. It is quite interesting seeing the reserve from there!