



VOLUNTEERING -Keeping In Touch

February 2019 – Issue 71

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you to all who came along to our Quiz Night. A good time was had by all – especially the winning table! We hope to have raised around £600.

One event on the horizon for which we would be grateful for some help is our next Make a Difference Day (MADD) on Saturday 9 March. This will take place from 9.45 until 4. The Reserve and Maintenance Team have identified several projects on the reserve that need hands on deck! We also need a catering team to help with the lunch.

The tasks for this MADD:

1. To reduce the hedge at the North edge of the reserve. This mainly comprises blackthorn that has grown unmanaged for a number of years now. The top growth forms a wonderful arch, but most of this arch is on very thin wood that is vulnerable to dropping to levels too low to allow safe passage.
2. The relining of Bottle Pond (so named as a point-ended glass drinking bottle was found in the excavation works for it in 1999) is underway.
3. Also, we are building bird boxes.

Because of the tasks on the list, this MADD is unfortunately not really suitable for children.

We will provide a lunch for those who are staying all day and, therefore, please could you send an email to let us know you will be coming along, adding any dietary requirements. If you are happy to come along to help with the catering (from 11.30 to 2 ish) please could you also send an email.

HELP NEEDED:

For leafletting local streets at end of April – please send email if you could help with this.

For helping with school visits - we help our teacher to set up the centre for an hour before each teaching session (usually 9-10) and then to close and clean up after the visits (either 12 – 1 or 2 – 3). There is an email list of those who help with this School Cover and if you would be interested in getting involved on that rota, please get in touch.

Circumstances did interrupt our planned monitoring programme following the workshop that Caroline ran but we are now working on this year's monitoring. It is anticipated that the plant monitoring (fortnightly) and butterfly monitoring (required weekly) could take place on the Monday volunteering sessions – two to three volunteers per team. If this is something you would like to be involved with, please get in touch. Other monitoring details (invertebrates, birds) to follow. Thank you for your patience.

RESERVE MAINTENANCE WORKING PARTY INFORMATION

Sunday 3 March from 10 to 12.30. Tasks will be identified from the seasonal task list. There will be a break around 11. FYI this afternoon, there is a Seed Swap event from 2-4 at OWCH building 5b Union Street, High Barnet.

Saturday 9 March –MADD. See above.

Monday volunteering every Monday throughout March, from 1.30 to 4. If you are interested in getting involved with these sessions, it is best to come along at 2 on your first visit and helpful if you could let us know you are coming too.

Thank you all for your valued support,
Sue Bird – Volunteer Support Team

PLEASE NOTE: There is no on-site parking at the Centre and the Rugby season has recommenced, so Sunday parking on Byng Road could 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! NB The Cavendish Road parking zone does not operate on a Sunday.