



# VOLUNTEERING - Keeping In Touch

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Dear Volunteers,

As you have probably concluded, the situation with regard to activity – school visits, working parties, events – at the Barnet Environment Centre sadly remains unchanged, although the trustees will be monitoring the national situation and looking for ways that we maybe able to create a safe and accessible “road map” out of this current position. It is a great pity that during this period government advice about gatherings has prevented our being able to welcome visitors to the site. We hope that there will be some opportunities during the autumn period.

I myself have not been as far as Byng Road since 17 March and have asked Dick Elms to provide a little update:

“The Reserve is being managed somewhat differently during lockdown. Given that the government has been restricting group activities, we have not been able to run Monday afternoon sessions, nor the weekend work parties. We are not anticipating any school visits this term but have undertaken to keep the site available for safe visits for Noah's Ark families. We are also keen to ensure that we do not leave ourselves with too much work to do when we are able to restart our normal volunteering sessions. The main tasks therefore have been to check and deal with any fallen branches and to keep the pathways mown and clear of brambles and nettles. This has in the main been achieved by 'household groups' after prior discussion with Bernard Johnson or me, Dick Elms. For health and safety reasons we need to know who is on site. If you do feel the need to do some maintenance, please drop us an email and either Bernard or myself will get in touch with you. There has also been a considerable clearing of the dense blackthorn triangle near the Monterey Pine. It is going to be interesting to analyse this 're-wilding' experiment by the end of the summer - already the foxes and muntjac appear to be more visible!”

Thank you to all those who have been involved in this maintenance work.

If you are out in the countryside during this period, please click on to <https://www.plantlife.org.uk> and find out all about “The Great British Wildflower Hunt”. Happy hunting!

We do so hope that you and your families are keeping well and remain so.

With best wishes

Sue Bird  
Volunteer Support Team