



# VOLUNTEERING - Keeping In Touch

October 2020 Issue No 84

Dear Volunteers,

The year continues with restrictions and changes to patterns of behaviour that we hope will keep us safe. Our activities are much reduced. We are grateful for your continued support and interest and hope that it will not be too lengthy a time before the volunteering on the reserve is an option for all.

There are still no school bookings for this term at the moment which is understandable given teachers are still catching up on missed work and getting used to new practices in schools. However, Caroline sends out a monthly Newsletter to schools including links to useful environmental websites. We already have bookings for May 2021, when we hope that Covid restrictions will be sufficiently eased to allow visits.

The Centre remains closed. We recently organised an Open Afternoon for Volunteers and Members and their families for visits around the reserve, no access to the building, of course, and all had to be pre-booked. It was well supported and enjoyed by those attending. As a result of the success of this event, we plan to organise others during the Autumn and Winter and further information will be sent out with dates when they have been determined. It is not anticipated for the moment to open these to the general public. The Open Afternoon allowed us to trial a new Sensory Trail that is being developed by Caroline as part of the Accessible Paths Project.

Excitingly, the upgrading of the paths at the Centre moves closer. We were disappointed that the funding we were pursuing (National Heritage Lottery Fund) was closed by the pandemic with little prospect of re-opening with the same criteria. However, we have been the beneficiaries of funding from The Hadley Trust to help both ourselves and Noah's Ark ensure the safe and accessible use of the reserve. There is more detail on The Barnet Society website that will save this newsletter getting too lengthy!

<https://www.barnetsociety.org.uk/component/k2/nature-reserve-s-new-paths-will-help-disabled-enjoy-sensory-trail>

Some volunteers are still attending on Monday afternoons 1.30 – 4.00 (usually about a dozen) to keep the reserve safe and tidy. We cannot use the building but we do have a hand sanitization point and we sometimes have a socially distanced cup of tea at the end (mainly to finish off the out of date biscuits). If anyone would like to come along, there is plenty to do and they would be very welcome. If you have questions you would like to ask about these sessions or feel able to join in, please reply to this email with a subject line of "Volunteering".

Hoping that you keep well and remain so,

Sue Bird  
Trustee