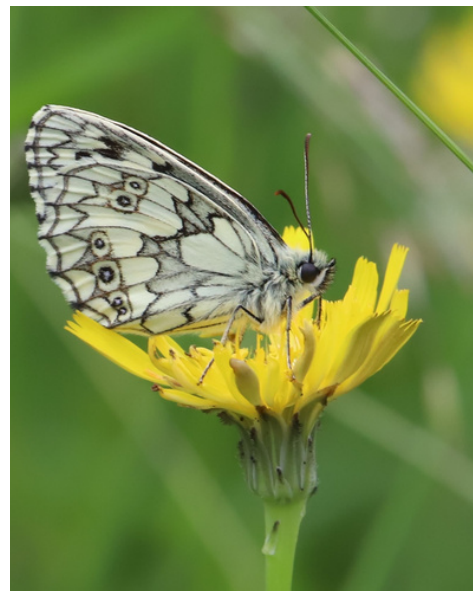


# Haringey Biodiversity Newsletter no 2 October 2021

This newsletter is being produced by Haringey Climate Forum and follows up the successful meeting held on 17th May about Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan. Its aims are:

- provide a forum for discussion of biodiversity in Haringey and to highlight successful projects
- exchange news and views and information on new biodiversity projects by Haringey and other organisations
  - discuss the content of the Biodiversity Action Plan and its progress through the council structure, as well as associated Local Plan elements such as the Trees and Woodland Plan
- give information on relevant ideas and projects in other London boroughs, particularly local ones

Comment including suggestions for articles welcome; contact Norman Beddington at [info@haringeyclimateforum.org](mailto:info@haringeyclimateforum.org)



## Biodiversity in Alexandra Park

As one of the large parks in Haringey, Alexandra Park makes a very important contribution to biodiversity in the borough. Almost 700 species were identified in a 24 hour Bioblitz in 2010, 38 of which are classed as rare or protected by legislation, including 5 UK BAP species; 183 bird species have been recorded, with active recording going back to at least 1970; and 29 species of butterfly, effectively 50% of the entire British species list, have been noted over the last three years. Given its mix of habitats and generally sympathetic management, the site is also likely to be significant in borough, if not London, terms for other invertebrates such as moths, dragonflies and bees. Most of the estimated 7500 trees in Alexandra Park have been planted, or have self-seeded, in the last 150 years and now include more than 120 species, but there are also older oaks surviving from the boundaries of the fields which preceded the establishment of the park.

The Friends of Alexandra Park run walks to introduce visitors to some of this wealth of biodiversity, and support the park manager with practical conservation projects.

As one of the large parks in Haringey, Alexandra Park makes a very important contribution to biodiversity in the borough. Almost 700 species were identified in a 24 hour Bioblitz in 2010, 38 of which are classed as rare or protected by legislation, including 5 UK BAP species; 183 bird species have been recorded, with active recording going back to at least 1970; and 29 species of butterfly, effectively 50% of the entire British species list, have been noted over the last three years. Given its mix of habitats and generally sympathetic management, the site is also likely to be significant in borough, if not London, terms for other invertebrates such as moths, dragonflies and bees. Most of the estimated 7500 trees in Alexandra Park have been planted, or have self-seeded, in the last 150 years and now include more than 120 species, but there are also older oaks surviving from the boundaries of the fields which preceded the establishment of the park.

The Friends of Alexandra Park run walks to introduce visitors to some of this wealth of biodiversity, and support the park manager with practical conservation projects.

pphoto Stephen Middleton



## Gardening for hedgehogs

We all love to think of having hedgehogs in our gardens – sadly though their numbers have fallen by two thirds in the last 25 years. However, urban gardens can be a refuge for hedgehogs given the right conditions. Hedgehogs can roam up to a mile each night in search of food (beetles, earwigs, caterpillars, earthworms, millipedes, fly larvae) so in urban and suburban areas, fences and walls often prevent hedgehogs from travelling between gardens. Providing holes at the bottom of fences gives hedgehogs freedom to forage. Ponds, netting, strimmers and slug pellets also create hazards. Paving over front gardens reduces food and shelter and forces hedgehogs onto roads to get to the next patch of green space.

A hedge is the perfect garden habitat, allowing easy access between gardens, and room for piles of leaves to accumulate beneath, where hedgehogs can forage, hibernate and raise their young. Native plants such as honeysuckle, dog rose, hawthorn and blackthorn are caterpillar food plants for a wide range of moths, which lay eggs on the leaves. Most moth caterpillars descend to the ground to pupate before becoming an adult, where they become nourishing food for passing hedgehogs.

If you have a pond, give it sloping sides so that hedgehogs can exit easily, or drape thick rope netting over one side, or place a log at one end to act as a ladder. To prevent injury to a sleeping hedgehog, check your long grass before using a strimmer. If you find any hedgehogs, move them from danger to a safe, secluded spot.

Conventional slug pellets contain metaldehyde, which is lethal to hedgehogs (these are slowly being withdrawn from sale in the UK). Wildlife-friendly, organic pellets contain the less toxic ferric phosphate, but they still take slugs and snails out of the food chain. Hedgehogs are slug predators, so taking steps to boosting hedgehog numbers will help control the slug population in your garden.

Hedgehogs need a dry, safe place to raise young and hibernate, and a hedgehog house is the perfect habitat. Ideally, cover it with plastic sheeting and a layer of leaves and make an entrance tunnel (around 12cm x 12cm and 40cm long) to prevent predators getting in. Site it under a north-facing hedge, out of the way.

A pile of leaves, logs or twigs left in a quiet corner of the garden – or a compost heap – makes the perfect hedgehog habitat, providing a warm, dry and secluded place for them to nest in and hibernate. Plus, small invertebrates, such as slugs, centipedes and beetles, will also take shelter here, providing food for hungry hedgehogs. If you build a bonfire that includes twigs, branches and other garden waste, it could be mistaken for by a hedgehog as an ideal spot to hibernate. Either dismantle it and rebuild it just before lighting, or light it on the same day you build it. This will ensure that no hedgehogs or other wildlife have had a chance to creep into it.

The website of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society is here <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

**Pamela Harling September 2021**

# Nature Conservation Officer Update

## Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs);

As part of the Local Plan review the Council is undertaking a review of the current condition and status of the 59 London Borough of Haringey's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The last study that examined Haringey's SINCs was conducted in 2014.

The review will allow the Council to produce new or updated existing policies to reduce and/or mitigate the risk to current and future decision making within the Planning and Policy framework as well as other Council services.

It will identify any changes to the condition or content of Haringey's SINCs which would affect their current status and/or level of designation. Assess any new sites which have already been identified e.g. Meadow Orchard, The Paddock and suggest new sites based on Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature. It will produce a report with justified recommendations to deliver targets and actions needed to protect and enhance biodiversity value across the borough.

In consultation with the Friends of and key stakeholders, the review will also produce Habitat Management Plans for 5 specific priority SINCs: Parkland Walk, Finsbury Park, Coldfall Wood, Queens Wood and Bluebell Wood.

We anticipate the reports to be delivered by the autumn.

## Parks and Green Spaces Strategy/Biodiversity Action Plan

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy also will endorse objectives delivered by the Biodiversity Action Plan . It includes opportunities for engaging communities, tackling the climate crisis and in increasing biodiversity.

Public consultation and engagement with stakeholders will take place from late September until early December 2021.

### Can you help?

We would really appreciate any pictures you have of your Parks and Green Spaces that can be incorporated into the Biodiversity Action Plan document.

Please send them to [annabel.foskett@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:annabel.foskett@haringey.gov.uk) in an email as jpgs - the higher the resolution, the better. Thank you.

### "Working together" with the Friends Forum

Following a meeting with Dave Morris in early June we discussed developing a separate meeting outside of the Forum exclusively to talk about 'all matters' biodiversity. Dave and I will be finalising details shortly.

### New People Need Parks Funding Opportunities

The New People Need Parks Funding opportunity has replaced the previous Parks & Open Spaces Small Grants Scheme. People Need Parks: Funding Opportunities | Haringey Council

We have revised the criteria to align with the developing Parks and Green Spaces Strategy aims and objectives, and have put the entire application and claim process online via eforms. The new online process makes it easier for you to apply and upload relevant

# FRIENDS OF TOTTENHAM MARSHES (FoTM)

The Friends of Tottenham Marshes was set up in 2006 under the auspices of what was then the Lee Valley Countryside Park to help develop the Marshes as a biodiverse green space and to protect the wildlife that depends on it. Tottenham Marshes is the largest area of grassland in the whole of the Lee Valley and so the creation of wildflower meadows and the planting of native trees was carried out in the early years and maintained to the present day. With the increased biodiversity in the plant life a variety of invertebrates increased with notable discoveries such as Wasp Spider, Roesel's and Southern Oak Bush Crickets and the appearance of butterflies such as Brown Argus, Marbled White, Clouded Yellow and Small Heath. A welcomed surprise was the appearance of 30 Bee Orchids in the first wild meadow that we created and now we have four different areas where they grow.

FoTM have run monthly bird surveys throughout the year since 2007 during which time over 100 species have been recorded adding to a historical list of 154 species. In addition butterfly and dragonfly populations are monitored as is the mammal population, which includes Stoat, Weasel, Field Vole, Water Vole and a sighting of an Otter. In 2008, at FoTM's request, we were given an area on the marshes by the Lea Valley Countryside Park to create an apiary which currently has five member beekeepers tending about a million bees that pollinate the area producing local honey which FoTM sells to members and the local community. FoTM run a series of 'Walks and Talks' on the Marshes to educate the local community to value the green space by understanding that nature is fascinating and vital to the health of our planet and needs to be protected. The walks include general nature, butterfly and dragonflies, the life cycle of the honey bees, herbal medicine, bats, the making of elderflower champagne.

**David Cottridge, Secretary, FoTM**

