

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Newsletter 50 – Spring 2021

Registered Charity No: 1122293

www.fknnr.org.uk



Dippers on the river Rea
Keith Reilly



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Newsletter 50

55 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton Registered Charity No. 1122293

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Chair's Report

Welcome to the 50th edition of the Friends' Newsletter. This is a significant milestone, as the Newsletter provides a detailed record of all the work done on the Reserve since our foundation in June 2004. The first edition was edited by Alan Bakewell, our first Chairman (and prior to that Chair of the pre-existing Friends of Wychall Reservoir). It comprised one A4 sheet, including a photograph of Wychall Reservoir full of water, looking totally different from how it does today.

Production of the Newsletter requires a fair amount of activity by a good number of members. Principal amongst these are the two most recent editors, Phil Evans and Amanda Cadman. Work begins by contributors being set a deadline for submission of their articles – not always an easy task as some contributors are always behind schedule (mea culpa!).

Once all the articles are in the editor will pull together the Newsletter together with selecting supporting photographs. It is then passed to Peter Cage for layout prior to going to the printers. Thanks to Peter for doing this, and to Sarah Cage for final proof-reading.

Once printed, the Newsletters are labelled (thanks to Steph for providing sets of labels), and sorted for distribution either by post to members at a distance, or for delivery by hand to those in the locality. A group of post persons ensures that this happens; as ever, they are usually members of the committee! Many thanks again to all those involved.

Our Facebook page has now increased to 431 followers, maybe due to the increased footfall during Covid. It is great that so many people show an interest in nature and credit the volunteers for the work that they do. There have been requests from new Friends to put the Newsletter on line. Membership subscriptions are the main source of our income at the moment, and the Newsletter is seen as a major benefit for our members. Not all members have access to the internet. For the moment, therefore, the Newsletter will remain a paper issue, but if you wish to move to paperless, please

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let Steph know. Back issues of the Newsletter are posted on our website a year after their original issue.

For a few months the Covid lockdown regulations prohibited all activity on the Reserve but otherwise this has continued weekly as usual. Litter picking has been almost weekly, so the Reserve looks very tidy despite the increased footfall. It is hoped that come the warmer weather people will be considerate and remove all their litter from picnics etc.

Although the volunteers' activities have continued we have not been able to hold a committee meeting, although one should have been held via Zoom by the time that you receive this Newsletter. The next date for the AGM is at present uncertain given the new strain of virus that appears to be increasing. A decision will be made in September about the feasibility of holding an AGM.

Work on the Reserve has continued and we are back to normal. Trying to improve the water level in Wychall Reservoir continues and those of you who have visited recently will have seen the hurdles prepared for the next stage.

We have recently had a meeting with the Environment Agency about essential work that they need to do to ensure the long-term safety of Wychall Reservoir dam. We will keep you updated on the progress of this once further details have been confirmed.

Interest has been expressed by Birmingham Beekeepers in siting an apiary on the Reserve to be placed in a safe and secure position, possibly near Wychall Reservoir. If this proceeds the hives will be in place next year and it will be great to have some honey taken from the wild flowers (and indeed the gardens) in the area. Himalayan balsam honey anyone?

Andrew Nabbs.



Photo by Ian
Maxwell of Sea
Change:
two Sea Change
volunteers & new
friend Brian Lee

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Birds around our patch

After moving to Birmingham in mid-2015, I was delighted to discover a local nature reserve on my doorstep. I soon adopted the combined area of Kings Norton LNR and Kings Norton Park as my local 'patch'. I make regular visits, and record all my sightings on BirdTrack (<https://app.bto.org/birdtrack>). To date I have recorded 78 species of bird across the area – and there's plenty of birds I've missed that others have recorded. I started 2021 with renewed enthusiasm for birding on the patch, having neglected it somewhat in 2020. So far in 2021 I have clocked up 27 visits and 62 species (at the time of writing: 13 May 2021). Four of those 62 I haven't recorded in previous years (*read on to find out which*) so I'm hoping to beat my best year total of 68 species set in both 2016 & 2018. I'm delighted to share my patch birding diary for the first few months of 2021.

January 1st: My most fruitful New Year's Day in five years: 43 species including a fleeting **Kingfisher** in Kings Norton Park. At Merecroft Pool 5+ **Goosander**, **Cormorant** flying over, 2 **Treecreeper** & **Goldcrest**. 4+ **Teal**, **Grey Wagtail** and a long overdue ***Meadow Pipit*** at Wychall Reservoir. Continuing west in the extension/pea fields area a **Green Woodpecker**, and best of all 8 **Lesser Redpoll** landed in a tree right above me! Something unfamiliar calling in the undergrowth that could well have been a Woodcock, but unfortunately I didn't see anything and whatever 'it' was eventually stopped calling. In birding you have to live with a degree of uncertainty and disappointment!

3rd: Numbers of **Goosander** increased to 11 & and a lone **Mute Swan** back at Merecroft Pool. At Wychall Reservoir: **Water Rail** 'squealing' (but not seen), first **Buzzard** of the year (by far the most commonly encountered bird of prey locally), lots of **Redwing**.



Goosander by Keith Reilly

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10th: This will go down as a red-letter day in my patch-birding career as I encountered my first ***Dipper*** on the reserve. I heard it singing as I walked along Wychall Lane, so I quietly approached the river near the stepping stones and enjoyed wonderful views. The Dipper – two in fact – continued to be seen/heard by me and multiple other observers throughout this period. The West Midlands Ringing Group installed nest/roost boxes locally in mid-March <https://twitter.com/RingersWm/status/1372827212714541057> fingers crossed they will breed successfully and become established in Kings Norton.



Dipper by Keith Reilly

17th: A high count for this period of 89 **Black-headed Gull** at Merecroft Pool – nowhere near the peak of 200+ I counted on 12 January 2020.

23rd: Amidst snowy scenes I enjoyed good views of **Water Rail** & **Little Egret** at Wychall Reservoir.

31st: Pair of **Reed Bunting** in the small reedbed adjacent Wychall Road new for year, plus a huge flock of **Redwing** (50++) in the horse paddocks at Merecroft, and a flock of at least a dozen **Lesser Redpoll** which flew from the horse paddocks towards Kings Norton church.

February 6th: Two **Dipper** zipping along & a **Grey Wagtail** in Kings Norton Park

7th: Wychall Reservoir 2+ **Teal**, **Buzzard**, fleeting **Sparrowhawk** (first sighting this year), **Treecreeper**. Peafields: 3 **Great-spotted Woodpecker**, **Nuthatch**, pair of **Reed Bunting** again, 4 **Bullfinch**, and a fox.

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13th: In Kings Norton Park I saw/heard a **Jay** imitating a Tawny Owl at first light this morning. I'm yet to encounter a Tawny Owl on the reserve, but I'm sure those who live nearby must hear them! My first **Fieldfare** of the year at frozen Merecroft Pool, and a **Sparrowhawk** flew over. Water Rail heard but not seen at Wychall Reservoir.

21st: Around 10am I saw a stonking male ***Stonechat***, at the very top of a silver birch tree in the Peafields area, which then flew west. There was a big movement of Stonechat in the West Midlands on 20/21 February with 11 at Sandwell Valley RSPB and 20 at Morton Bagot near Redditch. A big 'charm' of 40+ **Goldfinch** in Kings Norton Park the other notable sighting today.

March 7th: Still good numbers of waterfowl at Merecroft Pool this morning: 15 **Goosander**, 20+ **Tufted Duck**. **Sparrowhawk** & male **Reed Bunting** again Peafields. Six **Jay** together in Kings Norton Park noteworthy. Otherwise fairly quiet, no new spring migrants just yet (although just 'off-patch' I saw two **Chiffchaff** at Lifford Reservoir yesterday). Some nice fungi at Merecroft (scarlet elf cap?)



Scarlet Elf Cap? by Keith Reilly

14th: **Little Grebe** – new for the year at Merecroft Pool, fleeting view of **Water Rail** at Wychall Reservoir, and **Reed Bunting** in the usual spot. Single **Little Egret** in Kings Norton Park, then another one (or the same) at Wychall Reservoir. Big flocks of **Redwing** on the horse paddocks.

17th: Early pre-work walk around rewarded with two singing **Chiffchaff**, 7 **Goosander** back on Merecroft, **Buzzard**,

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Sparrowhawk, and several **Grey Wagtail**. This is the second-earliest **Chiffchaff** I've recorded on the patch - the earliest being 12th March 2017. I find it interesting to compare the first arrival dates of migratory species.

27th Alerted by its distinctive 'cronk' a **Raven** flew over the Peafields, plus a **Blackcap** in full song in holly trees in a Station Road garden on the way home (six days later than 2020).

April 4th First **Willow Warbler** of the year (another second-earliest migrant, the earliest being 1st April 2017), one of my favourites spring songsters near Popes Lane/Peafields. I enjoyed great views down to ground level a few metres away. I made a short audio recording of the Willow Warbler on my phone which you can listen to here: <https://xeno-canto.org/635775> – you might also hear **Blackcap** & **Chiffchaff** in the background. Unusually a pair of **Teal** were at Merecroft Pool. Plus a good day for butterflies: **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**; and lots of **Bee-fly**.

27th Another early pre-work walk paid off when I encountered a ***Wood Warbler*** at Wychall Reservoir. I couldn't quite believe my ears when I heard it sing (most distinctive – listen here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/wood-warbler/>), and was literally gobsmacked when I located it in my binoculars! For me this is a very strong contender for patch bird of the year (sorry Dipper) – by virtue of being so unexpected and rare, sadly a 'red-listed' species.

May 1st I took part in the West Midlands All Dayer (see [#WestMidsAllDayer](#) on twitter) recording a modest 46 species heard and/or seen across the 'Greater Kings Norton' patches (Lifford Res, Kings Norton Playing Fields/Park/LNR). The star birds were seen beyond my regular patch at Lifford Reservoir: **Common Sandpiper**, **Kingfisher**, along with **Whitethroat** in the brambles along the edge of Kings Norton Playing Fields

Looking ahead

I'm yet to record a **Swift**, **Swallow** or **House Martin** on the patch in 2021 – though I have seen all three locally around B30. The other obvious 'missing' bird in 2021 is **Kestrel** – I've recorded them in each of the previous five years, but none as yet this year.

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Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and **Reed Warbler** are all possibilities – but there are no guarantees! Fingers crossed I will be able to add a few more to my list of 62 before May is out. June and July tend to be a very quiet period, but who knows what migrants may pass through this Autumn – I'll be on the lookout for sure! Hopefully I can share another update in the next issue of the Newsletter. In the meantime, I share birding highlights via my twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/aplatt>) so feel free to follow me for timely updates. Also please do say hello if you see me around the reserve.

Adrian Platt



Little Egret by Keith Reilly

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All those extra feet

The happy result of recurrent lockdowns is to increase markedly the number of people taking their exercise on the Reserve. More people are walking, running or cycling, and I am sure that more dogs are getting longer and more frequent walkies. This is really good news, and we have been delighted to hear, especially on our Facebook page, of people's appreciation of the Reserve, its wildlife and its peace and tranquillity. Many people have told us that though they had lived here for x number of years they simply did not know the Reserve existed.

The cycle route has been heavily used, with cyclists of all abilities mingling, usually in a friendly manner, with families with pushchairs. This route can certainly take the increased traffic, but a number of new 'desire line' paths have been created across meadows and through the woods, not always as we might have wished. One new 'desire' path down from Merecroft dam led straight into our struggling colony of Snakeshead fritillary (*fritillaria meleagris*) in Sheila's Meadow, and has had to be re-routed to give them a chance of surviving!

The downside of all this increased traffic is that in wet weather paths have become very muddy, and consequently wider and wider as people seek to avoid the mud. Work was undertaken in December 2020 to repair some of the worst quagmires, and it is clear that more work is needed in order to keep the paths reasonably safe and mud-free. We will be buying a large supply of appropriate hardcore to undertake remedial work if it ever stops raining!



Brian Hewitt

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Butterflies, Moths and Other Insects

Observed on the Reserve during the Second Half of 2020

My last report, which covered the first half of 2020, ended with the discovery of a moth next to its cocoon on an oak leaf close to the Beaks Hill Road entrance to the Reserve. I was unable to put a name to it at the time but I have since determined it to be an Oak Nycteoline moth.

On 8th July I was walking to Cotteridge with my son when I spotted a moth, low down on a fence post, near the Reserve entrance by Camp Lane. I popped it into a specimen box, where it posed for a picture, then released it away from the prying eyes of predators. Later, I was able to identify it as a Small Ranunculus moth. This species was once common in South East England but became extinct about 100 years ago. Thankfully, it has become re-established in Kent during the past decade and has spread rapidly northwards.



Small Ranunculus

The caterpillars feed on lettuce and are often associated with allotments. Indeed, the Camp Lane Allotments are just along the road from where I found this moth.

During a leisurely stroll through the Peafields on 12th July, I was pleased to see that the sunny weather had brought out the butterflies. The clumps of horseradish bordering the trodden path had attracted some Small Whites. These butterflies lay their eggs on the broad leaves of this member of the cabbage family. On each side of the paths, the tall grasses of the meadow were alive with Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Large and Small Skippers. A few Small Tortoiseshells were feeding on burnet flowers and I disturbed a Red Admiral sunning itself on a path. As I approached

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the Popes Lane exit, a Comma put in a timely appearance to bid me goodbye.

The meadows of the Beaks Hill Road/Meadow Hill Road triangle were home to Common Blues, Ringlets and Meadow Browns when I walked through on 19th July.

I watched a brown Dragonfly hawking around the perimeter bushes. When I reached Waterways Meadows, I was pleased to see Gatekeepers frolicking in the sun. Having crossed Wychall Lane into Wychall Meadows, I saw that the buddleias had enticed a few Whites, a solitary Red Admiral and numerous Peacocks to their



Leopard Moth

long, purple blooms. A few weeks earlier I had seen lots of black, spikey Peacock caterpillars as they crossed the cycle path in their search for ideal pupation sites. On my way home, I took the woodland walk between the Rea and the cycle path. Speckled Woods danced around in the dappled sunlight under the tree canopies and I came across a Leopard Moth.

A flash of orange caught my eye on 26th July, among tree roots by Merecroft Pool. I thought perhaps it was a Yellow Underwing as their hind wings are a bright yellow/orange. A gentle poke elicited no reaction and upon further investigation I found that it was a dead Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

Although it rained for most of 27th July, there were a few brief, sunny spells in the afternoon. During these warm interludes the butterflies came out and I recorded Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, a few Ringlets, Common Blues, all three Whites and lots of Peacocks. A single Small Copper was resting on a grass stalk by the Rea in Wychall Meadow.

The last two days of July were extremely hot and the Reserve was teeming with butterflies. I counted five Small Coppers in Waterways Meadow. Although small, this is a strikingly beautiful butterfly. The fiery orange forewings appear to glisten in the

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sunlight. On occasion you may come across the odd specimen with a row of blue spots on each hindwing.

The flowers of ragwort in Sheila's Meadow during July and August attracted numerous insects. I took a photo of what I think is a Buff-tailed Bumblebee on 27th July. Holly Blue butterflies have a second brood which came out in August. I continued to encounter them into September. I also saw a very worn Small Copper in Pinehurst Meadow on 29th September.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee

You may be interested in some of the moths I have come across on the Reserve during the second half of 2020. In August these were Marbled Beauty, Orange Swift and a Plume moth which unfortunately does not have an English name but goes by the Latin name of *Amblyptilia Acanthadactyla*.

During September I found a Pale Prominent, a Feathered Thorn and a Sallow. Finally, on 4th October, I spotted a tiny moth which again has no common name, only its scientific name of *Tachystola Acroxantha*. It is an interesting little creature, first recorded in England in 1908, having been imported somehow from its native Australia. It is now found as far north as Cumbria.

Bill Edge

Photos by Bill Edge

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Popes Lane and another littering issue

The FKNNR has held two or three community litter picks each year for many years. If you ask any of the regular volunteers where the most litter and rubbish is found, the usual answer is "Popes Lane". So as not to offend local residents, I must clarify that the area to which I refer is that section of the road bounded by the Nature Reserve between the River Rea bridge and the railway embankment (the "one-way" section). So why is it so bad? It is a convenient one-way vehicle link from Northfield/Bourville, avoiding Cotteridge and more circuitous routes, and there is plenty of pedestrian traffic, particularly at school times (witness the volume of drink cans, sweets and crisp wrappers usually collected!) With the absence of dwellings along that section, vehicles can easily stop and dump rubbish, effectively with impunity. There is also a skip site adjacent to the railway embankment with an unsightly and often litter-strewn entrance.

At a meeting of the Local Nature Reserve Management Committee in November 2020, the Chairman, David Human, raised the generally disgraceful state of Popes Lane and asked if something could be done to improve it. I volunteered to look into the matter. The first logical step was to establish who owned what land. Sue Amey, the Constituency Parks Manager for Birmingham City Council, kindly supplied me with extracts from the Council's land ownership records which showed the boundaries of the land managed by the Parks Department i.e. the Reserve, and land managed by the Highways Department. From a visit to the outside of the skip site, I noted the name of a skip company on some of the skips. After a few telephone calls and online searches, I established that the skip site was, in fact, partly sub-tenanted, and that the Environment Agency (EA) was involved.

It had been brought to the attention of the EA that activities on the skip site, primarily the burning of rubbish and the storage of full skips, were in contravention of provisions in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The permitted use for the site is for the storage of empty skips only. The Agency had served notice on the primary tenant to restore the site to its permitted use by

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November 2020. However, over that period the tenant had been hospitalised with Covid. A further enforcement notice was therefore served, to expire in January 2021. The tenant did manage to meet the requirements of the notice by the deadline. At the time of writing (mid-May), the site is clear of skips bar two full ones and one empty and it looks much tidier, relatively speaking. Even the entrance is not so bad.

Concurrent with my contact with the EA, in late December I had put in a street cleaning request on the Council's website, in respect of the section from the Rea bridge to the railway embankment. I find that requests on Birmingham's website (www.birmingham.gov.uk) via your Brum account generally work, although the time it takes to register the request can vary according to the type of request and it does have its irritations (for example, a drop-down list of parks and open spaces does not show Kings Norton Nature Reserve, although Balaam's Wood Nature Reserve (much smaller) is there)! Just after Christmas I found that the clean-up had taken place and the road looked much better, except between the skip site and the embankment. Another request on 19th January also failed to improve the appearance of that section. It may be because the fencing distinction along this section is poor – a point referred to later.

From information supplied to me by the EA and that from Sue Amey, I was able to clarify the land ownership in the area, which proved to be quite illuminating. For years the Friends had assumed that the Nature Reserve on the side of Popes Lane opposite the skip yard extended to the railway embankment. In fact, the boundary between the Reserve and Network Rail's ownership is a water course flowing from under Popes Lane at the bend half-way along the road; therefore, the land opposite the skip yard from the bend to the embankment belongs to Network Rail. Just opposite the skip yard entrance, within Network Rail's land, there had been a pile of rubbish. Although at the time of the September 2020 litter-pick the volunteers had believed the land to be part of the Reserve, we had not cleared that rubbish because of the difficulty of passing it over the six-foot high, spiked metal fence from land two to three feet lower than the fence. When I learned that the land was in fact owned by Network Rail, I saw it as an opportunity

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to get the company involved by having a specific job for it to tackle. However, in May, once we were able to resume the Tuesday WorkOuts (TWO), a group of enthusiastic volunteers, who were unaware of the land ownership, managed to get the rubbish over the fence on to the highway and then carry it to the Popes Lane entrance for collection by the Council!

Nevertheless, in March, I had managed to find a method of emailing Network Rail, advising them of their ownership and the desirability of removing the rubbish, and asking if they would be willing to arrange for its collection and disposal. I received a reply within a week, advising that their maintenance protection co-ordinator had forwarded the request to their contractors and that the site would be cleared "when possible around safety critical work". After I heard that the TWO had cleared the rubbish in early May, I advised Network Rail accordingly but drew their attention to the rubbish which remained on their land either side of the railway embankment. They subsequently replied that the maintenance team had been advised of the update, and "would ensure that their contractors are made aware of the change in location". As previously advised the work "will be completed when possible around safety critical work". I feel that chasing up Network Rail on this could be a long-term project, but at least we now know how to contact them and get a reply in a reasonable time.

So, where are we now? There is a lot of litter on the embankment to the left of the railway bridge and the existing chain-link fence requires repair in order to clearly define the boundary. This is a matter I will also take up with the company in the first instance. The strip of land in front of the fence is highway land and therefore the Council's responsibility. This will be taken up with them again, as will any further fly-tipping in Popes Lane. Please do note that anyone can report fly-tipping or request a street to be cleaned up, via the Council's website, as mentioned previously; it is not just a prerogative of the FKNNR! I understand that the Environment Agency is again monitoring the skip site for any activity contrary to the permitted use.

We have requested the installation of litter bins on Popes Lane, so far without positive result.

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And, inevitably, the Friends will need to continue to periodically litter-pick alongside Popes Lane, as well as elsewhere on the Reserve, but hopefully with your personal help on litter-pick days or even at the Tuesday WorkOut sometime! There's always plenty to do on the Reserve.

Graham Layton

Secretary FKNNR

STOP PRESS from the Editor:

After all this good work, it is immensely irritating that someone has dumped a large yellow settee (or is it a three piece suite?) more or less in the outlet stream that flows under Popes Lane. As at 24 May it is still there, though almost invisible if you are driving along the one-way stretch.

Equally irritating is the vast amount of litter on the kerb of Catesby Drive on the industrial estate, left by drivers staying there overnight I believe. I am reliably informed by a senior member of Council staff that the first six feet from the curb are the responsibility of the City Council Highways Department. The steep slope down from the estate (clearly on view from the cycle path and the Reserve) is the responsibility of the industrial estate managers who seem to be invisible, while of course the rubbish that makes it down to the bottom of the slope and over the former mill race lands on the City's Public Open Space, i.e. the Nature Reserve. Sadly, gravity makes its presence felt here, and the worst impressions of all this grot will continue to be seen on the Reserve until such time as the squalor at the top of the bank is collected up. I'm told that the overnight drivers are now no more, so surely this is the time for action. Oh, and it all sits in a massive glade of Japanese knotweed!



Brian Hewitt

JOIN OUR JUNE

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK-NIC

Saturday 12 June at 2.30 pm

National charity Keep Britain Tidy is planning this year's "Great British Spring Clean" between 28 May and 13 June. In previous years we have already arranged our summer events by the time we hear of the Spring Clean, but it seems good to take part in this national endeavour as this strange year of lockdowns and distancing comes, we hope, towards an end.

We are therefore planning a community litter pick on Saturday 12 June. As this is the day of the Kings Norton Farmers' Market we are suggesting a start at 2.30 pm, as usual starting from Burmans Drive at the foot of Wychall Park Grove. We are also planning that all who have been involved should be invited to come back to Waterways Meadow at 5 pm for a bit of a picnic – more details in due course, but do please put the date in your diary!

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Volunteering

"In these lock down times we have never been more grateful for all the hard work you and the team do to ensure our local area looks so good. We enjoy it twice a day on our dog walk and are so thankful to have this on our doorstep. It has been a godsend for both physical and mental health in these difficult times. Please pass on our thanks to all the team."

Thank you to everyone who has made such appreciative comments, in writing or when you see us working around the Reserve. I think all the regular volunteers really enjoy getting out and doing what they do on the Reserve for their own exercise and general well-being, but it sure makes a difference to know that our work is appreciated! We are pleased to have welcomed a handful of new, and very regular, volunteers over the past few weeks. I think there were 17 workers on the Reserve this morning!

Throughout the three lockdowns ones and twos of the regular volunteers and others have made sure that the Reserve remains as clear of litter as we can make it. I know of a couple, not regular Tuesday volunteers, who go out every Saturday to spend an hour or so litter-picking at the Peafields end of the Reserve; they also flag up particular issues that need to be addressed. This is really helpful, and I would ask anyone who walks around our patch to let us know of any vandalism, fly-tipping, fallen trees, etc. etc.

Incidentally a large tree fell across the cycle path overnight back in February. Socially distanced, of course, we managed to cut up a good deal of it, but were relieved when the Rangers turned up like magic with their Land Rover and winch to pull the trunk out of the way.

So thank you all,
active volunteers and
walkers with your eyes
open and the
occasional litter



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picked. And if you get inspired to help us by volunteering on Tuesdays (all abilities catered for), by helping us fund projects to develop biodiversity, or if you can help with admin. tasks just let us know! As we regulars all get a bit older we are keen to ensure a continuum of active support for our magnificent Reserve: our home patch, our extended back garden where birds and butterflies, dragonflies and marsh marigolds thrive, where the water quality of the river allows dippers to do their stuff, where open meadows give space for our young people (and foxes) to play.

Amanda Cadman
Volunteer Co-ordinator



Sunset over Merecroft
by Keith Reilly

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Goosander with fish by Keith Reilly

Contacts

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Secretary	* Graham Layton	0121 458 4712
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Working Parties	Brian Hewitt	0121 458 2946
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Volunteer Coordinator	* Amanda Cadman	0121 624 3865
LNR Founders	* Alan Bakewell	
	Phil Evans	

Committee Members: Amanda Cadman, Peter Cage, David Fernie, David Hampson, Brian Hewitt, *David Human, Jean Perring, Paul Saunders, Val Saunders, #Matthew Wall, Brian Wells.

Newsletter Production: Amanda Cadman, Sarah and Peter Cage

Environment Agency Hotline	0800 80 70 60
City Parks Department Call Centre	0121 464 8728
Lickey Hills Rangers	0121 445 6036
WM Police Neighbourhood Team	101
Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline	0121 303 1111, option 5

(* Trustee of the Charity) (# co-opted)