

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Newsletter 55 – Summer 2023

Registered Charity No: 1122293

www.fknnr.org.uk



A proud coot parent feeding its young on Merecroft Pool in early August: a photograph by Keith Reilly, who regularly posts his beautiful pictures on our Facebook page



<http://www.facebook.com/knreserve> enquiries@fknnr.org.uk

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Newsletter 55

55 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton Registered Charity No. 1122293

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Chairperson's Report

Margie Hall

One of the regular joys of my life since moving to Kings Norton in 2018 is the Tuesday morning work group at our local Nature Reserve. In fact it is really two distinct but interwoven joys – the Reserve itself with its varied habitats and seasonal changes, and the welcoming group of people who meet up every week come rain or shine (almost: we don't actually work in the pouring rain).

So it was at the work group that I first met our outgoing Chairperson, Andrew Nabbs, and I didn't realise for a long time that he was the Chairperson of the Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve because such roles have no meaning in the work group. People just get on with doing whatever they are capable of doing in relation to the particular part of the Reserve we are working in.

Andrew and I were both sometimes a bit less capable. If the cutting or bundling or carrying was on bumpy ground, Andrew preferred to stay on smooth ground, and if it involved too much constant bending over, I preferred not to do my back in. And so it was that we often ended up litter-picking together along the paths. As we picked and sorted – one black bag for recyclables and the other for the stuff that was beyond redemption – his quiet, quirky humour always accompanied us.

Over time I became aware of his detailed grasp of the history and management of the Reserve, and as I got involved in some of the spring event organization, I came to know Andrew as a solid, grounded voice of good sense, keeping meetings on track and ensuring they fulfilled their purpose in as short a time as possible. Without doubt he has been an admirable Chairperson of the Friends and has done the nature reserve proud over the past eight years, and we all owe him a huge round of thanks. Hopefully we can do that in person at the AGM next year.

Personally, my understanding of the history, ecology and management of the Reserve is still somewhat limited. I have only felt able to take on the role of Chairperson because I am very sure of the expertise and dedication of so many other people. They are all mentioned in Gill Ambler's report on the 2023 AGM so I won't

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engage in repetition here, merely endorse the tributes to them all. But Gill herself was a big part of my decision – in the last year she has stepped into the role of Secretary with what has seemed like effortless efficiency although, having been a Secretary elsewhere myself, I know that feet were paddling away nineteen to the dozen underwater. With Gill as Secretary to do all the heavy administrative lifting I felt able to take on the role of Chairperson.

This is the summer issue, but weather-wise at time of writing it has been a very unseasonal summer. Nonetheless the wild flowers seem to have been blooming all over the Reserve – and inevitably the dratted invasive Himalayan Balsam is one of the tallest and



Himalayan Balsam

one of the prettiest. And inevitably many of our recent Tuesday work sessions have focused solely on 'Balsam Bashing'. In some places we pull the plants out from amongst other vegetation, not difficult in itself because with a gentle pull the short, pink roots are easily dislodged, but exhausting and uncomfortable work when doing it amongst nettles and

brambles. In other places the whole area with balsam in is scythed. But however much we do, there is still much much more of it. At this point in the summer, even if we cannot uproot it or cut it down, we need to get the flowering heads off the plants before they produce their seeds. Maybe some of the recreational or dog walkers amongst our members might do a bit of deflowering as they pass a patch of balsam. Just pulling the flowering heads gently off the plants as you pass would be a bit of a help. Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve without any Himalayan Balsam in it is a wonderful dream, a very unlikely achievement until either the scientists have done more work on the rust fungus that may be able to reduce the balsam's growth or we have got the entire Kings Norton's population out for a few successive weekends of balsam bashing. Nevertheless, as Gillian's report on our outings may mention, there was not a single stalk of it at

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Brandon Marsh. So, who knows for the balsam's future on our reserve.

Our trial of Saturday morning work groups has now been up and running for three months with some success but will need more members if it is to become viable as a regular group, so I would encourage anyone interested to turn up for the next one (first Saturday of each month, full details on our website).

Meanwhile, whether the weather is clement or otherwise, may you enjoy the Reserve through the remaining summer and into the autumn.

New - Saturday working sessions on the Reserve

Brian Hewitt

A number of Friends have said they are keen to help on the Reserve but are unable to join us on Tuesdays due to work commitments. As an experiment we have started some weekend sessions, on the first Saturday of each month, hoping more people can join us to help manage the Reserve. Two sessions have taken place so far, one at the Camp Lane entrance and another at the Peafields. These have brought several new friends to us, but we are keen for there to be more!

It is difficult for the current crew to work both on a Tuesday and a Saturday, and some are feeling their age – but we are giving it a go. There is much work needed to reduce excess vegetation and maintain the footpaths on the Reserve, as we cover such a large area. We are really anxious to recruit an entire new team for Saturdays, even to help collect the tools from the garage, transport them to each venue, and work in collaboration with the rest of us. We are also conscious of our venerable age profile, and younger blood is needed!

Another session was due to have taken place on Saturday 5 August at Burmans Drive but it was RAINED OFF! – but we will be glad to meet you on future Saturdays – remember: the first of each month. You can find dates and locations on our website, www.fknnr.org.uk/diary (under the 'key info' tab). We start at

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10.30 and work for a couple of hours, or till we are tired – whichever is the sooner!

Just wear strong shoes – or even wellies, and bring work gloves if you can – and we will find a job for you. There will usually be bramble, undergrowth and overgrowth to clear, Himalayan Balsam to bash, litter to pick, and fallen branches to tidy off the paths. We provide tools and basic instruction, and will be grateful for whatever time you can offer.



There is quite a sense of camaraderie in our group, as we give back to the community in our own way, helping to improve this wonderful resource on our doorstep for all to enjoy, and for the wildlife too. Won't you join us? Contact Amanda or Brian via enquiries@fknnr.org.uk, and let us know if you are able to help. But you don't need to make an appointment! Just COME!

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Environment Agency Outcomes Day

Amanda Cadman – Volunteer Co-ordinator

When undertaking a project such as has recently taken place at Wychall dam “a measure the Environment Agency must take is to: Increase biodiversity and promote environmental net gain by creating more and better habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife”.

The Environment Agency, as you know, spent much of last winter and the early part of this year strengthening Wychall dam and widening the spillway to be able to withstand a ‘once in a thousand years’ flood event. I think everyone has been pleased with the new look of the dam: sadly, no longer with trees, but wonderfully finished with wildflower-rich turf which gave us a splendid display throughout the spring and early summer.

Following on from this project the Environment Agency held an ‘Outcomes Day’ for its regional staff on Tuesday 27 June, working alongside the Friends to place twelve potential willow tit nest sites in various locations behind the reservoir as well as demolishing a collapsed fence on Burman’s Drive (see Brian’s article for how some of this timber has been re-purposed), pulling up Himalayan Balsam and some small-scale path clearance (and litter-picking of course).



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Not exactly boxes, but lengths of silver birch were attached beside the trees with wooden blocks to keep them separate and cable ties to hold them in place. The idea is that the birch will gently rot down and provide soft wood which willow tits may choose to bore into to form natural holes suitable for their nests. We wait to see if any willow tits turn up, let alone take a fancy, a few years down the line, to boring into the birch logs. But the whole exercise was very interesting, and the 19 visitors from the EA (including Dominika who had been Project Manager for the Wychall dam work) seemed to very much enjoy their day – as did we, working alongside them. I hope they will choose to come again to work with us. A good working relationship with the EA can only be a major advantage for us.

Benches

We have placed an order for the memorial bench for David Hampson, which will be set at the Beaks Hill end of Merecroft Pool. It should arrive in the next month or so, and we have spent some time clearing the view along the pool. An informal celebration of David's contribution to the Nature Reserve (as well as to the Links Residents' Association, which he founded and chaired) will be arranged once the bench is installed.

A bench of the same design has been purchased by a local family in memory of their mother. It will be sited halfway along the Merecroft path, making a restful seat for older walkers without directly overlooking the houses on Meadow Hill Road.

Two further, simple and robust, metal benches have been ordered with funds made available to us on the winding-up of the Friends of Historic Kings Norton. These will be sited along the cycle path at Wychall Reservoir, replacing wooden benches and having a view over the reservoir and its inlet stream.

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Dawn to Dusk

Dawn Abigail (with additional material from Amanda Cadman)

A week later than usual, our annual spring event took place on Saturday 13 May. The weather was good for England, in that it was not cold and was not actually raining.

The day started bright and very early, with a keen group meeting up at Burman's Drive at 5am. Our fine feathered friends, though, must have risen even earlier, as we were already surrounded by a symphony of birdsong (as well as muntjac barking at the other end of the dam). With the help of Adrian Platt we identified 34 bird species: warblers, finches and song thrush, to name but a few. Particularly memorable for me was the smallest of them all: the goldcrest. Its description as the 'disco bird' made no sense until hearing and seeing it spinning round and round, like a record. The walk ended with a close fly-past from a buzzard as it took off from the horses' field.



Demonstration of hurdle construction
By Ian Freake and Rod Allen

Mid-morning saw the start of the river dipping. A steady stream of visitors, young and old, found their way to the Rea where all manner of water 'mini beasts' were found. The eager viewers discovered a variety of larvae, nymphs, and even a little freshwater shrimp. All creatures were safely returned to their natural habitat at the end – as were the visitors!

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Back at Sheila's Meadow, there were opportunities to learn about wood engraving, build a hurdle or get competitive with the treasure hunt and tombola. Intensely competitive duck races on the canal feeder were directed by Penny Moore. Mary Green kindly led a botanical walk up at the Peafields where a wealth of yellow rattle is helping to reduce fertility in the meadows, and the field pea (*Lathyrus pratensis*), after which the area is named, was already much in evidence.



Later in the evening, bat enthusiasts joined Chris Sherlock of Brumbats to see and hear a satisfying number of our nocturnal flying creatures in the meadows around Merecroft. Many in the party had been issued with bat detectors to allow us to hear the noises emitted by the bats (normally far too high-pitched for human ears). Standing side by side along the path by the horse fields (which were particularly attractive to the bats owing to the flying insects above the piles of horse manure!), not only could we see the bats in the gathering gloom, but we found their clicking sounds as they flew back and forth snapping up the insects hugely exciting.

For some reason the event was not quite as well attended as the spring event in 2022, but we were delighted to see lots of families with young children who had clearly made plans to come and had brought their grandparents, friends and neighbours with them. It was a very social occasion, and the children clearly thoroughly enjoyed rushing around the field, following the treasure trail, river-dipping and having a punt on the duck races. All very satisfying!

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Annual General Meeting: 6 July 2023 at Triplex Social Club

Gill Ambler – Secretary

Thursday 6 July 2023 saw our Annual General Meeting compete with Andy Murray at Wimbledon. Unfortunately, we both lost ... our attendance, was pretty low with only 16 in attendance, and I believe that by Friday, Murray had been defeated too.

Our Chairman, Andrew Nabbs, had been struggling with ill health over recent months, so the meeting was chaired by Ian Freake, Vice Chairman. We received reports from the Vice Chairman, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Amanda Cadman, and Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Brian Lee.

Within the reports, thanks were given to Andrew, who had decided not to stand for re-election. His dedication and good humour, calm and wise guidance and overall support has helped us through the last few years.

The meeting was reminded of the energy and ambition that the late David Hampson had brought to both the Links Residents' Association and the Friends over the past years with many of his ideas implemented. A bench will be installed at Merecroft Pool as a commemoration to him.

We were informed of the previous year's events. There have been guided walks and a stall at the Farmers' Market. The Dawn to Dusk event in May had lower attendance than the previous year, however it was very well received. A litter pick initiative in March saw 23 adults and five children collect 43 bags of rubbish. Particular tribute was paid to Billy Crampton who had been independently litter-picking for the past three months as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

The regular Tuesday volunteers were thanked for their hard work, with only a few days cancelled due to bad weather. The trialling of monthly Saturday work sessions for those unable to attend on Tuesdays is ongoing. Currently there is a reliance on Tuesday workers, but the hope is that the Saturday group will increase in numbers and become self-sufficient. Thanks were given to Brian

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Hewitt, Ian Freake, Jean Perring, Amanda Cadman and Peter Childs for all that they do to facilitate the WorkOuts.

With lack of manpower within the Council's Ranger Service, the Friends developed their own informal Management Plan for 2019-2023. This proved successful and is the basis for the work carried out by our volunteers. Brian Wells, Ian Freake, Brian Hewitt and Amanda Cadman are currently working to develop a Management Plan for 2024 – 2028.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had finally completed its work on Wychall dam and, although looking very different, it is a pleasing sight with the wildflower turf. Recently, EA employees took part in an Outcomes Day alongside Tuesday volunteers, primarily to create nesting sites for willow tits at Wychall, but also helping to clear Himalayan balsam, paths and the semi collapsed fence along Burmans Drive.

Brian Hewitt was commended for creating several small bridges over the various watercourses during the year and also, unfortunately, for the speed with which he repaired one following major vandalism.

On the initiative of Membership Secretary Brian Lee, and following Committee agreement, Membermojo, an online membership system, has been implemented. This will make member management less labour intensive. Current membership stands at 226. A new website has also been developed which is looking much fresher. Brian Hewitt and Peter Cage were thanked for their input with this.

As Treasurer, Brian Lee presented the Financial Report for the year ended 31 May 2023. Income was at £2541, Expenditure at £2508, and Total Net Assets were at £6948.

It was agreed that membership subscriptions for 2024/2025 should remain at £7 per household and £5 for concessions.

Special mention was made of Val Saunders who collates and submits all the volunteer hours worked to the Birmingham Open Spaces Forum and on to Birmingham City Council.

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Thanks were given to Gill Ambler and Brian Lee who had offered to act as Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively, following the resignation of Graham Layton and Steph Hyde at last year's AGM.

Election of Officers took place. Margie Hall generously agreed to stand for election as Chairperson following Andrew Nabbs' resignation, and was duly elected. All other officers and committee members wishing to stand were re-elected, with Graham Layton becoming a committee member, following a year as co-opted member. See the back page for an updated list of officers and Committee members.

Unfortunately, we no longer have an Education Liaison Officer, following the resignation of Hannah Chidzik. It was noted that this is an important role which we would like to fill.

Thanks were given to Margie, and the meeting was closed in readiness for the presentation on the Erratic Boulder Project. Roland Kedge and Julie Schroder gave a fascinating talk about the geology and travel of the local erratic boulders. I'm sure they are a familiar sight to many of us and are generally just accepted as



From: <https://erraticsproject.org/>

part of the local landscape. Roland has dedicated many years to identifying these boulders and promoting their importance. Julie informed us that they have travelled by glacial movement during the Ice Age from the Arenig mountains in North Wales to South West Birmingham and Bromsgrove. We seem to have many locally, and I can remember clambering over some, as a child, near Northfield, and then my children also climbing some in Cotteridge Park. Some boulder walks have been created and leaflets are widely available. Have a look at the extremely informative and user-friendly website for the Erratic Boulder Project at <https://erraticsproject.org/>. They showed us a small boulder recently discovered in a garden in Selly Oak, demonstrating the density of the stone. Many thanks were given to Roland and Julie for a wonderful finish to the evening.

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FKNNR membership and new technology!

Brian Hewitt and Brian Lee

We hope you have had a chance to look at our newly-designed website.

In recent years we have been grateful for the expertise of Peter Cage, who built our original website from scratch. However, arrangements for hosting the site, increased emails, and the need for increased security have required a change. So www.fknnr.org.uk has a new look, thanks to a recommended designer, James Whitehouse.

If you Google 'FKNNR' you should find us easily. It's best to make a new bookmark for 'fknnr.org.uk' in your browser favourites, as a link to the old site may give an error message.

While much of the original content is still there (much needing updating!), the website is more pleasing to the eye and easier to navigate. We can update the web pages more easily too, thanks to guidance notes prepared for us by James; the most obvious example is the Diary page, as locations and events sometimes change at short notice.

Another feature of the new website is the 'Join or Renew' button at the foot of each screen.

As paying by cheque is so laborious to administer, it is secure and much easier to join or renew online. Using our new membership facility via 'MemberMojo', you can join or renew using a card or Paypal, and add a donation to our funds if desired. Gift Aiding your subscription will help our work greatly. Because we are a small charity we can't do Direct Debits, so please set up a Standing Order instead.

Our account details are:

FKNNR, Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-96-12, A/c no. 00057330.

As well as featuring on the website, there is a link to MemberMojo on our Facebook page by clicking on the 'Grebe' logo.

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The new system reminds members by email when their FKNNR subscription needs to be renewed. As an existing member, and if you are on-line, your email address should be on our records.

Click the 'Join or Renew' button as described; a new window opens for MemberMojo; you will be asked for your email address. By following the on-screen instructions an email is sent for you to log in securely; click on the link provided in the email, and you will be connected.

You can then join (if you are a new member) and provide your contact details, or else click on 'renew' – Mojo will advise you of your next renewal date. Maybe you will not need to take any action! But you can also use your log-in to check and securely update your personal details, change your email or postal address, or phone number.

We hope you will find the new system straightforward to operate. Please explore the new website, and of course send any comments, queries and suggestions to: enquiries@fknnr.org.uk
We will respond as soon as possible.

Guided Wildlife Walk

Saturday 23 September 2023

at 10.30 am

A morning wildlife walk around the Reserve will be led by Ian Freake and Amanda Cadman and will last as long as the walkers want!

Meet at the corner of Wychall Lane and Meadow Hill (Waterways Meadow entrance). All walkers are asked to wear stout waterproof footwear (some parts of the Reserve can be wet and muddy even in a drought).

Binoculars are recommended.

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Visits to Bodenham Arboretum and Brandon Marsh

Gillian Morrell

On two recent Tuesdays, regular volunteers were not to be found where you would expect us to be, working on Kings Norton Nature Reserve. Instead, in May, we visited Bodenham Arboretum, and, in July, we went to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, searching for ideas and inspiration, to help us improve our own reserve.

Bodenham Arboretum, near Kidderminster, was very different from Kings Norton Nature Reserve. In one area, an avenue of Laburnum trees had been planted, and arched over metal supports, to form a tunnel. The yellow flowers hung in long clusters, justifying Laburnum's alternative name of golden rain. It formed an eye-catching walk, extremely ornamental, but not the kind of natural look we strive to maintain on our Reserve. Bodenham also had a Japanese style bridge, linking a small island in the lake to the mainland. There were trees from many parts of the world. Additionally, the eastern side of the site contained a small farm. In a barn, recently born piglets raced around their exhausted mother! Some donkeys contentedly grazed outside. It was a delightful place to visit, but had less to offer us, in terms of inspiration, when compared with Brandon Marsh.

Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, near Coventry, is a 228-acre site run by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. It includes magnificent pools, marsh, reedbed, grassland and woodland, close to the river Avon. Coal mining up until the 1950s caused subsidence, which led to the formation of a large lake linked directly to the river. From the 1950s to the 1980s, massive volumes of sand and gravel were quarried, creating further areas of open water. Nine hides have been built, to allow visitors to watch the waterfowl without disturbing them. Over 230 species of birds have been recorded at Brandon Marsh. We saw a large group of around fifty lapwings, also oystercatchers, little ringed plovers, mute swans, grey herons, moorhens, a redshank, and a variety of ducks.

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An interesting observation made by one of our party was that there is no Himalayan Balsam visible at Brandon Marsh. It is a non-native species, and we spend a lot of time removing it from Kings Norton Nature Reserve every summer, to protect native plant species. Sadly, we never manage to get rid of it in its entirety, as it seeds prolifically. She enquired at the Reception Desk as to whether it had reached Brandon Marsh, and was told that the volunteers have removed it all! It is known that some volunteers there put in many hours each week. I spoke to one volunteer shortly before 12 noon who told me that he had already spent four hours working on the Reserve that day. The reward for his efforts was that he had had two sightings of a kingfisher!



Swans at Brandon Marsh. Gillian Morell

If there is one thing that we learnt from the volunteers at Brandon Marsh, it is to keep on persevering. They have also created a small sensory garden near to the Visitor Centre, and placed several feeders outside the Badger's Kitchen café. As well as many birds, we were fortunate to see a muntjac deer making the most of the food, while we ate lunch ourselves!

The visit to Brandon Marsh was truly memorable, and my thanks go to FKNNR committee members for arranging both visits, and to the volunteer drivers, who ensured that we all got there and back safely.

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Bridging the Gaps

Brian Hewitt

A complex network of small watercourses runs through our Reserve in the Rea valley, though some only flow intermittently. With many more people using the Reserve, and having some suitable timber to hand, I thought of constructing bridges across the smaller streams to provide alternative routes for walkers. The first was installed across a small stream in Pinehurst woodland, to link with the Westhill footpath. This same stream flows from Merecroft through 'Sheila's Meadow', where it can still be boggy, though occasionally drying up. A second small bridge was built to replace the few hazardous logs which lay in the mud. Walkers can now cross the wetland from the Meadow and follow the track more safely into the woods. There is a fairly steep slope to the top of the dam, and the track continues across the dam to rejoin the main footpath near the spillway.

Another idea was to bridge a stream near Meadow Hill Road, where the channel had lain completely hidden amongst brambles. A pathway was cut through, and reclaimed timber used to construct the bridge in October 2021 – obligingly, dog Oscar sat on the bridge for a photo. The new path is now regularly used by walkers. The City's tree-surgeons helped by spreading chippings along the footpath.



Recently our Committee agreed a more ambitious project for a bridge to join the two sections of Waterways Meadow across the canal feeder. The flow of water is regulated from the sluice beside Wychall Lane, and is the same stream that continues through Kings Norton Park. The Meadows are the only part of the Reserve not on City land, owned instead by the Canal and River Trust.

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Substantial new treated timber was purchased from our funds. The location chosen is near the finish of the 'duck race' at our Spring events. As the banks are in a dip at the crossing point it was decided to build the bridge in the shape of a T. The timbers and planks were sawn to length, and assembly was tested at home before transporting the components and screwing together 'in situ'. The bridge was quite substantial, with 1" thick planks. Sadly, after a month it was vandalised by persons unknown. Judging by the smashed timbers, a sledgehammer must have been used, and chicken-wire which had been carefully stapled in place to prevent slipping was a tangled mess. The damage was reported to the Police, and a crime number obtained. This incident coincided with permission given to demolish the old fence at Burmans Drive, which provided a stock of still-serviceable and thicker timber for repairs. Now the restored bridge is again being used by walkers, and even by students on their way to school. With spare timber from the demolished fence another opportunity presented itself, to bridge across the old mill-race in 'Ramsons Dell' – down the dip near the cycle path bend. There were only a few wobbly stones in the stream-bed, quite hazardous. Fortunately the double-thickness fencing timbers bridged the gap; other planks were sawn to length, screwed down, and the bridge built on a 'skew' to meet the slippery slope on the other side. Next was going to be the cutting of proper steps into the embankment.

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However, Nature took a hand: we had the heaviest rain-storm for years; and when I went to inspect the bridge, it wasn't there! Despite its considerable weight the bridge had been washed 25 metres downstream. Evidence of the astonishingly high water level was found in mud-stains on embankment plants. On Tuesday 18 July four stalwart members lugged the bridge, still in one piece, back to its original position, and it is now firmly staked down. We hope it will withstand the elements rather longer, bridging another gap in the Reserve.

Editor's note

Amanda Cadman

I regret that we don't have reports on birds or butterflies in this edition of the Newsletter. Adrian Platt tells me that 'Unfortunately I haven't been to the reserve very much since early May, so nothing from me this time around', while 'Butterfly Bill' Edge tells us that currently he hasn't got enough information to make an interesting article this time around. But both promise us reports for the Autumn Newsletter, so watch this space!

Meantime we were thrilled to see an article all about Kings Norton Nature Reserve by The Hungry Gardener (Claire Lindow) in the July 2023 edition of Kings Norton Parish Magazine. Claire has recently joined us as an active volunteer, and she is full of praise for the recuperative powers of the Reserve as well as the pleasures of working with the volunteer group. Being a hungry gardener, she says 'In spring when I am cooking ... and realise I need something oniony, I nip down to the woods for a handful of wild garlic. I've made elderflower cordial from the beautiful blossoms of the elder to help us through the cold season later in the year. If work gets stressful or I need a screen break, I take a walk in the Reserve. It clears my head and is a wonderful diversion to freshen my point of view.' Thank you, Claire, for encouraging your readers to consider joining us to work on the Reserve on Tuesdays or on our new monthly Saturday sessions – and thank you for your kind words about the benefits of volunteering. We are, as you say, 'so lucky to have a nature reserve on our doorstep to discover through the seasons'.

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Lords and Ladies (*Arum maculatum*) by Peter Lund

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Environment Agency Hotline	0800 80 70 60
City Parks Department Call Centre	0121 464 8728
Lickey Hills Rangers	0121 445 6036
W M Police Neighbourhood Team	101
Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline	0121 303 1111, option 5
Severn Trent	0345 7500 500
RSPB Birmingham Office	01767 693777

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