



Volunteering Update – April 2021

- volunteering suspended due to Lockdown, resumed after Easter with focus on littering.
- main conservation and grounds maintenance programmes resuming initially on a phased basis at Highgate Wood, East Heath, Hill Garden, Golders Hill Park, Keats House, Kenwood Estate and enclosed gardens.
- wildlife monitoring and youth programmes expected to restart in mid-April .
- review of scope of wildlife interpretation programme.
- enquiries for corporate volunteering opportunities being received again.
- community outreach and events programmes (see below) restarting through April and into May.
- over 20 sessions for community groups in Sep-Dec, including parents and toddlers, activities for older people, disabled groups and wellbeing sessions etc
- restrictions on group sizes and capacity remain and limits on recruitment an ongoing issue.
- risk assessments and Covid safe working arrangements have been reviewed.
- approximately 3069 hours contributed by volunteers in 2020/21; reduced from 15,000 the previous year.
- increasing proportion of sessions supervised by Heath Hands staff team during 2020-21.

Selected Projects

- Community Fun Day planned for 27th June as part of the **150th Celebrations**; support being given to wider programme of events where needed.
- related **Video Project** a huge success with dozens of visitors telling us why they #lovetheheath.
- new **fundraising** platform (a bit like Justgiving) launched: <https://heathhands.enthuse.com/profile>
- discussions on hold regarding Heath Hands creating new interpretation/educational space at the **Dairy**.
- Heath Hands **online shop** came online in September: www.heath-hands.org.uk/shop
- membership of the **Friends of Heath Hands** is growing fast, and **wildlife home adoption** scheme is equally popular.
- Electric ATV** purchased to support work across the Heath
- funding from Camden Giving and the Postcode Lottery has enabled us to develop a programme of **public walks and talks**, largely related to wellbeing and mental health to roll out through 2021.
- Work Experience** programme to provide opportunities for those underrepresented in the sector expanded to four placements in 2021 – first 2021 trainee, Edozie, recruited
- the **Heath Friendly Schools** programme relaunched in early 2021 with huge interest amongst local schools.
- Youth Programmes** momentum has been affected by lockdowns but after school and weekend activities have been oversubscribed with hundreds of attendees and will expand through rest of 2021 led by Heath Hands new team of **Session Leaders**.
- Savernake Road Bridge**: Heath Hands with the support of the Heath and Camden Council is taking responsibility for enhancing the neglected southern end of the bridge; and working with the City of London to progress landscaping and habitat improvements around the Hive

Heath Hands Highlights - 2020/21

Activities around lockdowns:
from June—November 2020
and December 2020

Over 3000 hours
contributed
across over 316
sessions

Monitoring re-started
gradually with staff initially
running transects and
volunteers brought in over
the summer

Friends of Heath
Hands membership
grew to over 40

Highgate Wood:
weekly sessions
resumed: September
2020

Electric ATV
purchased

Youth programmes restarted in
October, with weekend and team
of Session Leaders recruited

Digital Heath
celebration for
150th anniversary
of Hampstead Heath
Act successfully
completed with
dozens of videos
submitted

Golders Hill Park, Keats and
Hill Garden: sessions resumed
in July 2020



Kenwood Estate sessions
resumed in August



Festive wreaths and walks
programme for volunteers and
community in December.

Recruitment for first of 4 work
experience trainees
(underrepresented
backgrounds) —Edozie joined

Community activities
resumed in September
with older people,
parents and toddlers,
disabled groups etc.
taking part in activities
on the Heath. New
mindfulness sessions
launched.

First
corporate
volunteering
group in
October -
Corporate
membership
scheme
launched.

Heath Friendly Schools (HFS)
scheme relaunched in
November

Wildlife Interpretation
(WaHH) sessions remained
suspended due to Covid

Dozens of litter picking
sessions carried out over
the summer with
volunteers and local
groups

Wildlife Home
adoption scheme
launched - 41
adoptions since May

