



## Volunteering Update – August 2021

- majority of volunteering programmes have resumed, approaching pre-covid levels of activity
- over 4000 **hours** contributed by volunteers since April across approximately 300 volunteer **sessions**
- restrictions on group sizes and recruitment issues easing

- main **conservation and maintenance** programmes resumed on Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Hill Garden, Golders Hill Park, Keats House and Kenwood Estate.
- ongoing focus on litter and summer invasive species control, supporting Ranger Teams

- community** activities and outreach e.g. guided walks with Castlehaven Community Association, African Health Forum, Caversham Practice, family and youth activities with King's Cross Brunswick Community Association Somali families, NW5 play project, Holborn Community Association, the Winch, older people support with Camden Carers and North London Cares.

- wildlife monitoring** projects in full swing; ongoing support provided to London Natural History Society, Heath and Hampstead Society and ZSL with their respective surveys

- over 100 **youth** volunteers involved to date on after school and weekend sessions

- Heath Friendly Schools:** Brookfield, Heathside, Swiss Cottage School, South Hampstead High School, Highgate School, the Village School, St Margarets get pupils involved in volunteering

- wildlife interpretation** sessions remain suspended

- regular schedule of public **walks** and **mindfulness** (mental health) activities set up

- resumption of **corporate** volunteering programme

### Selected Highlights

**Community Fun Day** on 27<sup>th</sup> June a great success with carnival, live music and nature activities as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations; alongside activities at rugby and athletics and kite event.

Five paid **work experience** placements provided for disadvantaged or underrepresented young people

In collaboration with ZSL, CoLC and H&HS a major **hedghog survey** undertaken over summer

Free activities for **families and teenagers** provided throughout the school holidays as part of Heath Hands youth programme

**Savernake Road bridge** project landscaping began in late June, with further improvements and planting scheduled through Autumn

### Funding news

Support received from:

The National Lottery Heritage Fund – **Green Recovery Challenge Fund Round 2**. Multi-year funding for Wildlife around Hampstead Heath connecting more people to nature on the Heath. Supports restart of wildlife interpretation and ongoing work experience, citizen science and mental health programmes.

**Grow Wild** (Kew) for wildflower meadow creation around Savernake Road Bridge.

**Thames Water** for a programme of activities and conservation work on the Fleet Stream.

**Young Camden Foundation** for summer youth and children's activities