



Volunteering Update – May 2022

Heath Hands as ever continues to **collaborate** and **partner** with CoLC and English Heritage in the delivery of events, volunteering learning programme and communications.

Recruitment of 25 new volunteers so far in 2022, with a total volunteer group now 170.

- **conservation and estate maintenance** programme fully running across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Hill Garden, Heath Extension, Golders Hill Park, Keats House and Kenwood Estate.

-Over **15,000 Heath Hands volunteering hours** in 2021-22 – highest ever annual total.

-In addition to Heath Hands' work, volunteers contributed over **1,500 hours** across Keats House, Highgate Wood, Golders Hill Zoo and Queens Park Zoo

-**wildlife interpretation** weekend sessions re-started in January with Big Garden Birdwatch – monthly theme (trees in May)

-seasonal **wildlife monitoring** re-started in April. Increase to 4 reptile transects, developing our butterfly and dragonfly surveys

-over 165 **youth** volunteers involved during 2022 on after school and weekend sessions

-**Heath Friendly Schools:** seventeen local schools have joined membership scheme and hundreds of pupils taking part in volunteering and nature activities

-**corporate volunteering:** 12 companies welcomed so far in 2022 following a record year in 2021.

-**community** activities and health connections (selected): regular activities and partnerships developed with QCCA (Queen's Crescent Community Association), Umoja (African) Health Forum and Barnet Mencap. Programme of wellbeing activities e.g. forest bathing, nature walks and work with social prescribers.

Annual **Community Fun Day** on Sunday 12th June 2022 at Parliament Hill Bandstand.

Selected Highlights

What's on: growing programme of **walks and talks** organised: tree identification, nature art, bird walks, pollinator walks – coordinated to complement Hampstead Heath's programme of nature walks.

Work experience programme for two trainees so far in 2022.

Savernake Road bridge: work progresses on the borders over the bridge, with wildflower meadow areas, perennials and heathland plants. Greening project around Hive with new native hedgerows and **wildflower meadows** being developed for areas behind Hive in conjunction with Heath's Ecologist and Butterfly Conservation.