



Park Life No 21 Autumn 2022

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Introduction

Welcome to the 21st edition of Park Life!

Its sheer size is one of the delights of Cassiobury; it means there are always areas to explore, and the changing seasons offer us new facets of those places we thought we knew well. As part of a guided “Big Green Week” nature walk I recently returned to the area above the west bank of the canal - between the canal and the golf course - and noticed, as I hadn’t really done before, that some of its ancient trees would pass muster for their magical, sinister cousins we have seen on screen in the last 20 year or so: the denizens of Middle Earth’s Fangorn and Mirkwood forests, Hogwarts’ Whomping Willow, or Sleepy Hollow’s Lair of the Headless Horseman. So beware. But even if you find ents, orcs, ghosts and wizards a bit thin on the ground, a little exploration away from Cassiobury’s beaten tracks will almost certainly take you somewhere rewarding. To inspire you in this issue we have a round-up of the

activities the Friends have participated in over the last few months - see the Work Party schedule appendix for information on how you too can get involved. We have a sequel to the Summer edition's article on "Sparrow Pot Lodge" with Peter Jenkins speculating who the sparrows were and what probably happened to them (Trigger warning: it doesn't end well!). Peter Fewell wanders off his usual butterfly beat to give us a few pointers on the fungi we may see in the woods at this time of year, as does Libby Gower as she takes us for a walk in the autumnal woods. Our 11th article in our occasional series on "Park People" features Isabel Crozier, our new Park Manager. As usual the beautiful photos of Anna Brooks and Raffi Katz illustrate what our park has to offer – in this edition Raffi features some spectacular fireworks shots for those of you who missed the park's 5th November display.

Alec Thomas

Editor, November 2022

Around the park and volunteering.

It's pleasing to see that the number of volunteers working on the reserve is increasing. Matt Butters from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) is now our regular work party leader and is building consistency in the group's membership and



activities. Over the Summer our work focused on meadow mowing, but more recently ponds and old cress beds have been cleared, and overhanging trees cut back to permit light to reach the water surfaces. Woodland management has seen the creation and enlargement of glades in Whippendell. Users of the birdhide will notice the area around the feeders has been cleared, giving better visibility of the birdlife the feeders will attract over the winter. FoCP provides and maintains the feeders, topping them up every 2/3 days.

Monthly litter-picking continues, with an unfortunately guaranteed never ending supply! Since the update in the Summer

Park Life we have made a difference by collecting around 40 bags of litter. Veolia has kindly provided us with some new very robust litter-picking sticks.

We increased our membership this year by running several membership stalls over the summer, and will launch a series of membership/awareness events in Spring 2023, so look out for opportunities to participate.

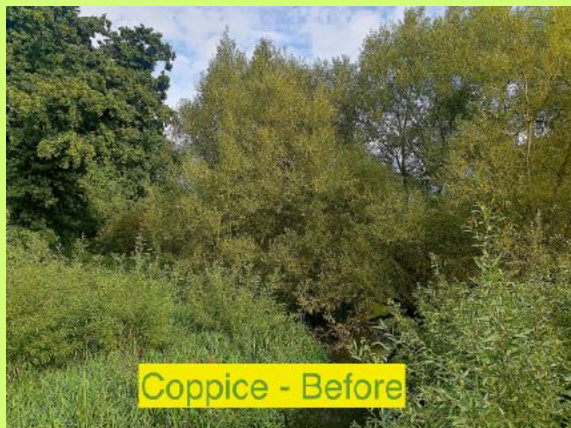


Autumn gales brought down an Oak tree, blocking one of the footpaths. However subsequent clearance enabled FoCP volunteer Tim Pettigrew, with the help of your editor, to harvest two sizeable trunk sections. After a lengthy drying process, Tim will "turn" the oak into the beautiful bowls he sells to raise funds for the Friends.

So, FoCP activities are very varied, and we always have opportunities for more volunteers. Enquiries about volunteering should go to Robert Barnes (secretary@friendsofcassioburypark.org.uk).

Over the last three months FoCP member Alex Popple, who works with Community Connection Projects (CCP), reports that CCP (employed by WBC to do ecological work around the park) carried out river-fly monitoring at two sites on the Gade, at the Rustic and Crowfoot bridges; taking samples by moving a net across the river bed. The numbers of eight types of flies are monitored and population estimates made from this data. The most common invertebrates found were Mayfly larvae and Gammarus (a fresh water crustacean). The data is used to detect changes in water quality and possible pollution incidents. The results of the monitoring can be found at: <https://cvfc.org.uk/rflies/public.html>.

CCP also coppiced Crack Willow by the Meadow bridge, to reduce the shading over the river surface and encourage the growth of vegetation such as Sedges, Purple Loose Strife and Flag Iris. The cuttings are dried and used to backfill eroded areas, or to create embankments. The coppicing also improves the river view upstream from the Meadow bridge.



Community Connection Projects are updated regularly using the Facebook page – “Watford in the Water.”

Beyond hands-on activities in the park we’re also looking for people to join the FoCP committee. Members do the organisation that allows the Friends to contribute to the life of Cassiobury – eg finance, recruitment, membership, marketing, social-media and website, organisation of WPs/litter-picking/birdfeeding, production of Park Life magazine and Newsletters, and liaison with Watford Council and HMWT. If you fancy getting involved with the committee please contact our Chair Peter Jenkins (chair@friendsofcassioburypark.org.uk).

A Walk in Whippendell Wood, with Fungal Foray.

A woodland walk is a treat, even more so on a warm sunny afternoon in October. All my senses were quickly engaged: Sight obviously, as the light was so good and the autumnal colours couldn't be ignored. Hearing, as the wood was hushed, and the trees were reducing sounds from the outside world, leaving just the sounds of nature. These included high 'tsi' calls from either a goldcrest or some of the tit family, but the birds were elusive. Then a robin's rather sad autumnal song and the harsh call of a jay. Smell - coming from the damp earth and decaying leaf litter. Taste, had the blackberries not gone past their best and the chestnuts not been spilt from their spiky cases. Touch, as the smooth grey green bark of the beech trees and the rough ridged sweet chestnut trees were inviting that sense to be used.

Woodland is a unique ecosystem - a "climax" community of plants, animals and fungi - and for that reason very special, with Whippendell, an ancient wood and a Site of



Autumn
Breakfast

Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) even more so. Magnificent beech trees lining the rides towered above with leaves shading green, russet and gold. Small yellow silver birch leaves had fallen to the ground alongside brown 'fishbone' sweet chestnut leaves, creating a mosaic on the dry gravelly path. The soil is glacial outwash from the last Ice Age which carved out the Gade valley. Oak trees still mainly green, but just beginning to turn, had a bumper acorn year which the grey squirrels and jays feed on and cache for later in the winter. The oaks support so many species - gall wasps inside the oak apples, and many other insects, birds and mammals. Non-native sycamores

have attractive leaves which turn yellow early, but around the car park they were still green, but with a heavy infection of black spot fungus. Our park woods are being managed sensitively to maintain native species, leaving dead wood to decay and provide valuable habitat, although some timber extraction was evident in the lumber piles just off the car park.

The wood's understory is shiny holly, rusting bracken, and brambles, their overarching canes still in leaf, and threaded through all this is wild honeysuckle. A quiet



brown muntjac, head down, slips across our path. Fresh green nettles are growing through the leaf litter. Later dog's mercury, a slightly toxic green leaved plant, will appear in some parts of the wood, whilst in other areas bluebells, which will carpet the ground in spring, lie dormant as bulbs. The layer of decomposing leaves creates a thick rich humus soil, nature's own

compost and a carbon 'sink'. It is also the habitat for invertebrates: millipedes, centipedes, spring tails, slugs, snails and worms, which begin many food chains running up to apex species such as tawny owls, sparrow hawks and badgers.

Autumn is the season for mushrooms, the 'fruiting bodies' of fungi. Conditions this year seem ideal as the long dry summer gave way to a wet September and the soft tissue of the mushrooms relies on being hydrated. A classic 'toadstool' has a stalk arising from underground and a cap which opens slowly to reveal 'gills' below. These gills become covered in spores which are eventually released below or spread in air currents. Other toadstools and bracket fungi emerge from dead and rotting wood. These appear from a network of thread-like hyphae, growing through the dead tissue, feeding from it saprophytically by releasing enzymes to digest and then absorb the food. Their link with *living* trees is even more amazing as it is now known that the relationship is symbiotic - trees benefit from the uptake of both water and minerals from the soil by these thread-like hyphae, whilst the fungal mass of threads draws sugars from the tree. Research shows that the network of threads can act as channels for food, water, enzymes and plant hormones to pass from tree to tree. The trees may actually be communicating with each other or supporting each other nutritionally. A wood is an inter-connected system with the symbiotic association between fungus and plants playing an important role.



So what fungi did we spot? Our walk ended close to the golf course, and it was here that we found a clump of *Lepiota procera*, the Parasol mushroom. It has a convex cap, which can grow up to eight inches across, and is covered with shaggy

scale, but ours were shorter.

Quite close by were delicate fungi with slim stems and conical caps, Cluster Bonnet Caps (*Mycena Inclinata*) - common on dead tree stumps. The temperature that day (Oct 17th) was 17-18C and the sun was beginning to fall across the amazing blue sky, making our shadows look like stilt-walkers as we crossed the footpath over the golf course.

Since then heavy rain and warm temperatures have led to vast number of toadstools appearing - from the ground, on stumps and dead tree trunks. Fungi can be difficult to identify and a small number are toxic so take care, and wash hands after handling. Only eat if you are very sure as some can closely resemble our edible field mushrooms, *Agaricus campestris*.



Elizabeth Gower October 2022

The Fate of Sparrows at Sparrow Pot Lodge

In the Summer 2022 edition of Park Life (No 20) archaeologist and historian Laurie Elvin told us the fascinating story of Sparrow Pot Lodge and other buildings that, until 1949, occupied the site of the large Whippendell Wood car-park, on Grove Mill Lane.



Laurie included the postcard of Sparrow Pot Lodge, with three sparrow pots (ringed) on the south-facing wall; made of fired clay and hung on nails. A stick through holes above the neck acted as a perch to attract sparrows to nest inside. The back was open, giving access to the contents. It is unclear exactly what they were used for, but Laurie felt that it's unlikely it was in the sparrows' interests.

In this article I'll explore what sort of sparrows were likely to have been caught and what might have been their fate once in the pots....

The UK has three resident sparrow species, and the first candidates for the pots are Hedge Sparrows, (*Prunella modularis*), also called a Dunnock, and is not really a



sparrow at all but a member of the Accentor family (ground dwelling birds mostly found on mountains!). The Hedge Sparrow is so-called because it's a small brown and grey bird that spends most of its time on the ground under hedges! It has a pleasant tinkling song that is one of the first to be heard in the spring, but otherwise seems quite boring and shy except for its extraordinary sex life, which involves a great deal of partner swapping and polygamy! The bird only feeds on the ground and unlike the Robin has not adapted to using bird feeders. So unlikely to be a bird that would be interested in using the sparrow pots.

However, Tree Sparrows are 'real' sparrows (*Passer montanus*). Found mainly on farm hedgerows, this attractive and smallish bird has undergone a massive 95% reduction in the last 25 years and is now even harder to see than it was previously. But it does have a massive Asiatic range that includes China where, in 1958, millions were killed and the species eradicated, on the orders of Mao Zedong in a mis-guided attempt at crop protection, and as part of the Great Leap Forward. Largely overlooked here, the species was only distinguished from its larger more common 'cousin' (see below) in 1720. So it's possible, but unlikely, because of their size and habitat, that they used the lodge pots in the late 1800s



So that leaves the obvious suspect ...the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Once extremely common in Britain, their numbers have dropped sharply in the last ten years, but nobody really knows why. My theory is an avian pandemic, because isolated flocks such as the one in my friend's garden in Bushey where he provides food all year round, have survived, whereas wanderers have disappeared.

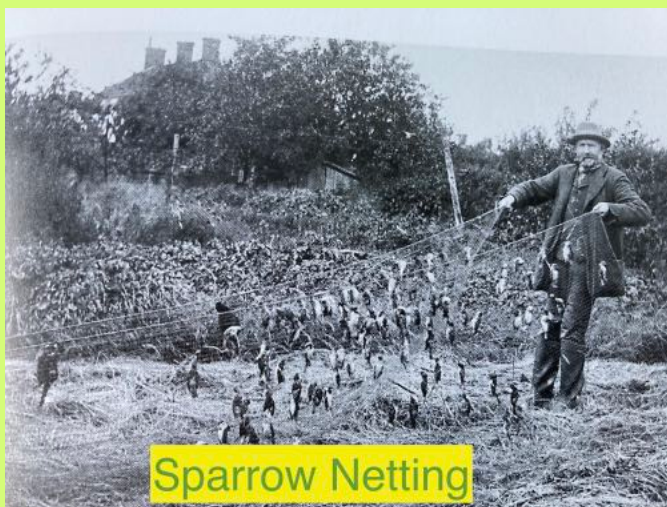
In the past, House sparrows were found in vast numbers and commonly served up at the dinner table. In fact they were counted as legal game and were very popular indeed. Their numbers were such that they were considered a major agricultural nuisance, and until WW2 were netted in their millions, as well as taken from pots. So I'm sure those on Sparrow Pot Lodge were for catching and eating House Sparrows. Indeed, sparrow pie or pudding had a long tradition that probably stretched back



House Sparrow

more than 1000 years. The meat is dark and flavoursome and was endowed (wrongly!) with powers of sexual arousal! In Troilus and Cressida (Act 2 Scene 1) Shakespeare lists them at a penny for nine. But it wasn't just a dish confined to rustic cottages - a delicious Elizabethan recipe recommended sparrows be prepared in mutton broth, and flavoured with mace, pepper, claret, marigold leaves,

burberries, rose water, sugar, marrow and sweet butter!



Sparrow Netting

Along with other small birds House sparrows (with their Spanish and Romanian 'cousins') are still illegally caught and eaten in some southern European countries, and legally in the USA where they are a highly successful invasive species. Apparently they are also still a delicacy in Japan.



Spanish Sparrow



Romanian Sparrow

Peter Jenkins
Oct 22

Photos: Kevin Blake

The Nectar Pot

In early September Malcolm Hull, Chairman of Herts and Middlesex Butterfly Conservation (HMBC) and I met with our new park manager, Isabel Crozier (see Isabel's Park Person profile elsewhere in this issue), and representatives of Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT). The aim was to discuss butterfly conservation practice in our park. We briefed Isabel on the locations of sightings of rare species such as Purple Emperors (along the Lime Walk) and White Admirals. For some reason, since an initial sighting in 2016 this latter species has been doing well in Whippendell Woods, but has declined in other areas of Hertfordshire. Whippendell Woods is also one of the best places to see Silver-Washed Fritillary in Hertfordshire with this year's numbers once again very healthy. We also looked at areas of the open park where rarities such as the Brown Argus have been recorded. Malcolm recommended the area around the main car park for further development of wildflowers, as it appears to be an area favoured by the Blue family of butterflies. HMBC hopes to work with Isabel, especially with the aim of increasing bio-diversity in the park and woods.

Because of the Queen's death I had to abandon my plan for a summer Butterfly Walk and so, during "Big Green Week" in late October, I simply gave a talk on butterflies to be found in the park at other times of year, while Malcolm Hull spoke about how to encourage butterflies in one's own garden. Malcolm appeared on Autumnwatch 2019 - showing hibernating Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks he had managed to tempt to his outbuilding in St Albans. Alas on the day of our talks Daisy's was absolutely heaving, consequently a lot of noise invaded the room next door where we were presenting. But we hope all that came enjoyed it.

We distributed some seeds of plants loved by butterflies, but have plenty left. If any Friends wish to try planting in their own gardens or in the park then contact me at p.fewell@yahoo.com. I can then tell them what's available and the benefits of each plant for pollinators.

The butterfly season has ended apart from a few sightings of Speckled Wood during the October litter pick so it was time to see what fungi Whippendell Woods had to offer. I'm no expert but I do recognise a handful of the many species to be found in Whippendell Woods, such as the Fly-Agaric *Amanita muscaria*. Most of us are familiar with this species as it's the one that's steeped in folklore and magic and often appears in fairytales. We also found Red Cracked Bolete (*Boletus chrysenteron*). As you can see in the photo they don't have gills - the underside being rather sponge like in appearance. Many of the boletus family are edible, but some are poisonous. So make sure you know the highly prized Ceps or Penny Bun's from the poisonous members of this family. The Red Cracked Bolete is edible but goes mushy when cooked, but may be worth adding to a soup.

Some of the fungi we find in the woods, like the Brackets (Polypore) are visible all year round whilst others are up and gone in a flash. Most distribute spores through gills such as the Shaggy Scalycap (*Pholiota Squarrosa*) in the photo (not edible). But



Fly Agaric



Red Cracked Bolete



Shaggy Scalycap

Puffballs sort of explode! If you find a dried looking Common Puffball and give it a squeeze you may see the spores coming out of its top.

However many fungi will not reach the fungi dispersal stage - being a handy food source for rodents, deer, beetles and other invertebrates. It's thought that by having the ability to devour poisonous fungi some invertebrates avoid predation by becoming toxic themselves. Bell type mushrooms with gills probably shelter some of the tiniest of mini-beasts by creating a perfect micro climate within their gills. Most fungi are beneficial, although some can harm trees and eventually kill trees.

Nonetheless they play a vital role in maintaining a healthy space. So if you're out for a stroll in Whippendell Woods or the open park this Autumn have a look at

the fungi and appreciate the abundant food source they offer other woodland inhabitants (and, with care, ourselves).

Peter Fewell, October 2022

Park Person

Cassiobury Park and its Nature Reserve is enjoyed by thousands of people every year, but it doesn't look after itself and behind the scenes various people work to ensure that it continues to be a superb amenity. One such person is Isabel Crozier, our newly appointed Park Manager, who took over from Pherenice Worsley-Buck in August.



With a degree in Ecology from the University of East Anglia Isabel began her career in community development, working for the Cambridge branch of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and then joined Hertfordshire Countryside Management Service, where she set up schemes for volunteers to work on environmental projects, managed facilities, developed management plans for green spaces, worked with contractors, liaised with stakeholders, and developed walks - both self-guided and also those with a health theme led by trained volunteers. More recently she has worked for St Stephens Parish Council (near St Albans) covering similar duties. Although only taking up

her post in August 2022 Isabel already knew the park quite well - through both her work with Herts council and personal family visits. She sees it as an “amazing resource” with, particularly for an urban park, an impressive diversity of habitat - river, ponds, meadows, woodland, wetlands. Isabel feels she has taken over a very positive situation, considering that Watford Council has given the maintenance of the park a high priority when compared to how other authorities have treated their own green spaces. However she is aware that the pressure on public finances means it will undoubtedly be challenging to meet the demands of the various outgoings associated with the park - eg litter collection and disposal, woodland/grassland maintenance, running of the paddling pools, and the costs of the Hub building.

However on the positive side Isabel has plenty of ideas for continuing to maintain and improve the park. In Whippendell she envisages more habitat improvement through widening of the woodland rides, enlargement and creation of glades and thinning of the trees - all of which will allow more sunlight onto the lower levels of the woodland, encouraging insects and birds. As some trees come down others will be planted, especially in parts of the open parkland near the main car-park. General access to the park will be improved by further work on the paths - including some in Whippendell where little recent work has been done on its paths. In the longer term Isabel would like to investigate the creation of a sculpture trail.

Alas our woodland is being infected by various tree diseases - damaging especially our Ash, Oak and Chestnuts. This will require the removal of trees near paths where they might constitute a hazard, but elsewhere infected trees may be allowed to stand, as even dead wood can offer a valuable habitat and food source.

Isabel will also be examining the possibility of modifying the weirs that exist on the Gade as it flows through the park, with a view to encouraging the movement of fish upriver.

Another area of particular interest to her is the work of the various volunteer groups (including FoCP) that work in the park. Working with such groups has been a theme

of her career, so she hopes to bring her experience to bear to optimise the contribution of such groups.

FoCP wishes Isabel well in her new job and looks forward to working with her.

Alec Thomas. Oct 2022

Photo Gallery
Photographs by Raffi Katz: author of “Cassiobury Walks”









REMEMBER - INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE PARK CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX - COVERING FoCP AND HMWT WORK PARTIES IN CASSIOBURY AND OTHER RESERVES.

If you have enjoyed Park Life, then continue to follow the Friends of the Park on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and on our website:

www.facebook.com/FriendsOfCassioburyPark

www.instagram.com/friendsofcassioburypark

www.twitter.com/cassioburyFOCP

www.friendsofcassioburypark.org.uk

Information about Park events at:

www.watford.gov.uk/cassiobury

www.watfordbigevents.co.uk

Enjoy the Park!

FRIENDS OF CASSIOBURY PARK: Park Life No 21, Autumn 2022.
APPENDIX - HERTS AND MIDDLESEX WILDLIFE TRUST WORK PARTY
SCHEDULE

Date	Site	Task	Link to book
November			
Tues 1 st	Cassiobury Park (10 places)	Meadow management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/01-nov-22-cassiobury-park-volunteer-work-party
	Hertford Heath (Roundings)	Heathland management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/01-nov-22-hertford-heath-roundings-volunteer-work-party

Weds 2 nd	Kings Mead (Chadwell) (15 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/02-nov-22-kings-mead-chadwell-volunteer-work-party
	Waterford Heath (South) (20 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/02-nov-22-waterford-heath-south-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 3 rd	Fir and Pond Woods (15 places)	Holly clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/03-nov-22-fir-and-pond-woods-volunteer-work-party
	Marsworth Reservoir (10 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/03-nov-22-marsworth-reservoir-volunteer-work-party
Tues 8 th	Purwell Ninesprings (North) (15 places)	Reed cutting	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/08-nov-22-purwell-ninesprings-north-volunteer-work-party
	Rye Meads (10 places)	Reed cutting	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/08-nov-22-rye-meads-volunteer-work-party
Weds 9 th	Whippendell Wood (15 places)	Woodland managem ent	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/09-nov-22-whippendell-woods-volunteer-work-party
	Patmore Heath (15 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/09-nov-22-patmore-heath-volunteer-work-party
Tues 15 th	Wilstone Reservoir (10 places)	Pond managem ent- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/15-nov-22-wilstone-reservoir-volunteer-work-party
	Thorley Wash (10 places)	Tree popping- bring ...	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/15-nov-22-thorley-wash-volunteer-work-party
Weds 16 th	Aldbury Nowers (South)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/16-nov-22-aldbury-nowers-south-volunteer-work-party
	Stanborough Reedmarsh (10 places)	Pollarding	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/16-nov-22-stanborough-reedmarsh-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 17 th	Danemead (12 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/17-nov-22-danemead-volunteer-work-party

	Purwell Ninesprings (North) (15 places)	Reed cutting	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/17-nov-22-purwell-ninesprings-north-volunteer-work-party
Tues 22 nd	Whippendell Woods (10 places)	Woodland management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/22-nov-22-whippendell-woods-volunteer-work-party
	Hertford Heath (Roundings) (15 places)	Heathland management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/22-nov-22-hertford-heath-roundings-volunteer-work-party
Weds 23 rd	Waterford Heath (North) (20 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/23-nov-22-waterford-heath-north-volunteer-work-party
	Patmore Heath (15 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/23-nov-22-patmore-heath-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 24 th	Hexton Chalk Pit (10 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/24-nov-22-hexton-chalk-pit-volunteer-work-party
	Frogmore Meadows (15 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/24-nov-22-frogmore-meadows-volunteer-work-party
Tues 29 th	Stockers Lake (10 places)	Pond management- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/29-nov-22-stockers-lake-volunteer-work-party
	Thorley Wash (12 places)	Tree popping- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/29-nov-22-thorley-wash-volunteer-work-party
Weds 30 th	Gobions Wood (10 Places)	Coppicing	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/30-nov-22-gobions-wood-volunteer-work-party
	Amwell (10 places)	Pond management- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/30-nov-22-amwell-volunteer-work-party
December			
Thurs 1 st	Alpine Meadow (15 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/01-dec-22-alpine-meadow-volunteer-work-party

	Fir and Pond Woods (15 places)	Holly clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/01-dec-22-fir-and-pond-woods-volunteer-work-party
Tues 6 th	Stockers Lake (10 places)	Pond management- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/06-dec-22-stockers-lake-volunteer-work-party
	Hertford Heath (Roundings)	Heathland management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/06-dec-22-hertford-heath-roundings-volunteer-work-party
Weds 7 th	Cassiobury Park (10 places)	Meadow management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/07-dec-22-cassiobury-park-volunteer-work-party
	Balls Wood (15 places)	Ride management	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/07-dec-22-balls-wood-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 8 th	Hexton Chalk Pit (10 places)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/08-dec-22-hexton-chalk-pit-volunteer-work-party
	Frogmore Meadows (15 places)	Pond management- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/08-dec-22-frogmore-meadows-volunteer-work-party
Tues 13 th	Amwell (10 places)	Scrub removal	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/13-dec-22-amwell-volunteer-work-party
	Waterford Heath (North) (20 places)	Scrub removal	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/13-dec-22-waterford-heath-north-volunteer-work-party
Weds 14 th	Aldbury Nowers (South)	Scrub removal	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/14-dec-22-aldbury-nowers-south-volunteer-work-party
	Lemsford Springs (10 places)	Lagoon management- Bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/14-dec-22-lemsford-springs-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 15 th	Patmore Heath (15 places)	Pond management- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/15-dec-22-patmore-heath-volunteer-work-party
	Old Park Wood (10 places)	Holly clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/15-dec-22-old-park-wood-volunteer-work-party

Tues 20 th	Thorley Wash (15 places)	Tree popping- bring ...	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/20-dec-22-thorley-wash-volunteer-work-party
	Whippendell Woods (10 places)	Woodland managem ent	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/20-dec-22-whippendell-woods-volunteer-work-party
Weds 21 st	Patmore Heath (Christmas Task)	Pond managem ent- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/21-dec-22-patmore-heath-volunteer-work-party
	Hilfield Reservoir (10 places)	Tree felling/ glade managem	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/21-dec-22-hilfield-reservoir-volunteer-work-party
Thurs 22 nd	Fir and Pond Woods (Christmas Task)	Pond managem ent- bring wellies	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/22-dec-22-fir-and-pond-woods-volunteer-work-party
	Aldbury Nowers (North)	Scrub clearance	https://hertswildlifetrustevents.org.uk/event/22-dec-22-aldbury-nowers-north-volunteer-work-party

- The above schedule contains all the weekday work parties that are taking place on all of the HMWT reserves during this period.
- These are staff-led work parties with a variable number of volunteer places available for each task based on the nature of the task and the number of tools required.
- You must have completed and submitted a Volunteer Registration Form before attending any work parties.
- To book a work party, **please click on the booking link and follow the instructions.**
- Bookings are on a **first come first serve basis** and, unfortunately, we are unable to maintain a waiting list.
- Everyone must book a place in order to attend, including wardens. **Please do not turn up to a work party if you haven't booked** and received confirmation of your place.
- Registration for each weekday work party closes at midday on the day before.
- To minimise fuel emissions, please try to book onto work parties closest to you.
- Those aged 11-15 will need a parent/ carer to attend with them and under 18s will need a parent/ carer consent form to be completed. Regrettably these activities are not suitable for the under 11s.

- If you have any questions about volunteering at all, please email reserves enquiries: reserves@hmwt.org or give Ian or Marianne a call on the numbers below.

What to Bring:

Wellingtons or stout footwear (ideally steel toecaps), waterproofs and a packed lunch, drinks and snacks and **hand sanitiser**. Island-based tasks may require a change of clothes. We recommend you wear long-sleeved tops and long trousers to protect yourself from stings, scratches etc. We will provide gloves, any necessary safety clothing, supervision and training (**but please bring your own gloves if you can as these must not be used by anyone else**).

Reserve Team Contact Details:

Reserves Manager:	Ian Carle	07799 116014
ian.carle@hmwt.org		
Senior Reserves Officer:	Dan Townsend	07876 508036
dan.townsend@hmwt.org		
Reserves Officer (Central):	Steven Werrell	07799 116012
steven.werrell@hmwt.org		
Asst Reserves Officer (Central):	Beth Palmer	07787 528804
beth.palmer@hmwt.org		
Reserve Officer (West):	Anna Daniels	07876 508035
anna.daniels@hmwt.org		
Asst Reserves Officer (West):	Matt Butters	07500 997693
matt.butters@hmwt.org		
Reserves Officer (East):	Kathryn Dunnnett	07771 823345
kathryn.dunnnett@hmwt.org		
Asst Reserves Officer (East):		
Reserves Support Officer:	Marianne Lodge	01727 858901 ext246
marianne.lodge@hmwt.org		

(Please note: Marianne works Mon-Weds 10am-3pm only)

Weekend Work Parties

In addition to the weekday work parties listed above, some of our volunteer wardens run regular weekend work parties and volunteers are also welcome to attend these. As with weekday work parties, you must have completed and returned a Volunteer Registration Form prior to attending.

To book a place on one of these work parties, please contact the warden directly, using the contact details below.

Site	Occurrence	Info	Warden	Contact details
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Amwell	Sun 23 rd Oct Sun 20 th Nov Sun 11 th Dec 9.30am – 1pm	Meet at green gates (layby) off Hollycross Road, parking on site of old quarry	H e a t h e r MacIntosh	07736 332986 heathermac@gmx.co.uk
Ashwell Quarry	3 rd Sunday of every month between September and April; 10am – 1pm	Meet in Loves Lane in small field behind unmarked steel gate, adjacent to barn conversion. Wear boots. Bring	Chris James	01462 742 684 chrisjames56@btinternet.com
Fir & Pond Wood	Sun 9 th Oct Sun 13 th Nov Sun 11 th Dec 10am – 1pm	Meet in lay-by in front of the Reserve at Coopers Lane Road, Potters Bar, opposite the Oshwal Centre EN6 4DG Bring your own drinks,	John Rowley	johnrowley256@gmail.com
Lemsford Springs	1 st Sunday of every month; 9.30am – 12.30pm	Meet at The Classroom, 100m inside the Reserve gate off the roundabout at J5 of A1M (west side). Bring wellies and gloves. Tools, hot drinks and	Barry Trevis	01707 335517 07739 169664 trevis1@tiscali.co.uk

Patmore Heath	Last Sunday of every month between September and April; 10am – 12.30pm	Meet in the Patmore Heath parking area. Wear sturdy footwear suitable for outdoor	Gavin Vicary	07802 545450 gavinandmaggie@hotmail.co.uk
Purwell Ninesprings	Sun 16 th Oct Sun 13 th Nov 10am – 1pm	Meeting place varies – check with warden before	Martin Ketcher	martinketcher@gmail.com
Tewinbury	4 th Sunday of every month; 9.30am – 12.30pm	Meet at Trust car park. Bring wellies. Tools and refreshments provided.	Robin Cole	01438 813403 07814 524928 robin.cole@hotmail.com

Friends of Cassiobury Park’s Weekend Work Parties:

In addition, the Friends of Cassiobury Park host Weekend Work Parties at Cassiobury Park on the 3rd Saturday of every month. To find out more about these, please contact Robert Barnes, FOCP Secretary, directly for more information by emailing him at secretary@friendsofcassioburypark.org.uk

