



Newsletter

July 2024



Welcome to summer and our second newsletter to update you on our conservation work and other news during the second quarter of the year.

Our workdays

The warmer weather has seen an abundance of new growth covering our beautiful nature reserve in wildflowers such as Common Vetch

(pictured left, Chris Peskett) and Common Comfrey (pictured right, Chris Claridge). Most of our workday tasks at this time of year involve cutting back soft vegetation like nettles and brambles to help keep paths open for visitors. We also remove overhanging branches which impede the tractor's route along paths when it comes in to do the grass cutting.



We are very fortunate that our regular volunteer numbers for Saturday workdays are growing and attracting younger enthusiasts through our Instagram posts. Our warden, Ian, has also recently started weekly Tuesday workdays with morning and afternoon sessions. Just a small group at the moment but it helps Ian with a variety of projects such as the found wood post and rail fences near the Elmers End entrances.



Volunteers play such a key role in assisting the warden with conservation work in SNCP but, of course, FoSNCP cannot take all the credit. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) work for two full days each month with their regular volunteers who do include some FoSNCP members. Recent work has included clearing the streams of vegetation and along the boundary fence with



Elmers End Road. TCV have also organised several corporate workdays in the last few months which further increase the amount of work covered. In addition to path clearance, volunteers have installed a couple of new benches with the Friends putting one in at the end of the seasonal path.

They're looking very happy with



themselves as they view the wonderful scene across the La Motes meadow and wetlands above.

Wildlife and nature walks



Last quarter we had just started our programme of walks. We're now in full swing with a fascinating Fungi Foray in April, led by mycologist, Clifford Davy. We were pleased to record a few new species that we didn't find in the autumn walk. In May, it was a 5 am start for our Dawn Chorus Walk once again led by Howard. Those early risers were rewarded with the delights of birdsong at, arguably, the best time of day in SNCP. From a dawn start to a dusk start, Ian



took a group of night owls around the nature reserve for the first Bat Walk in May and again, most recently, at the end of June. SNCP has the second highest number of bat species found in Croydon and the clement weather has produced plenty of insects for them to feed on. Armed with bat detectors, walkers were treated to a back and forth display of our little flying mammals. We also kicked off June with one of John Hickman's wonderful Beckenham Cemetery Walks. A great supporter of FoSNCP projects, John has given his time to lead several fascinating and entertaining walks discovering the last resting place of notable local figures.

Other news

The FoSNCP have resurrected the weekly seasonal butterfly transect previously started and expertly carried out by Malcolm Bridges for around 20 years. As he has been unable to continue to collect data for the last few years, a group of 6 volunteers, including Ian, had training from Bill Downey at Butterfly Conservation Surrey and SW London and now we take turns to collect data on butterfly numbers which are recorded on the national database to monitor and assess recent decline.



For any issues relating to SNCP, you can email our warden directly at ian.glover@croydon.gov.uk

A reminder that we are collecting photos for our 2025 calendar – closing date 1st August. Please email our gmail address.

Finally the Friends of South Norwood Country Park are an enthusiastic group of volunteers with one thing in common – we love our designated local nature reserve. If you would like to join in with one of our workdays and learn more about the importance of conservation, please email us on friendsofsncp@gmail.com

For more information about SNCP and detailed workday reports, please visit our website www.friendsofsncp.org.uk



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