



Wren

Wildlife & Conservation Group

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Summer 2013

<http://www.wrengroup.org.uk/>

a word from the chair

What future is there for conservation and the natural world? Increased pressure for building, transport infrastructure and leisure; the largely invisible but even more destructive ravages of modern agriculture; and a changing climate all pose big threats to biodiversity in the UK and beyond.

While we can be vigilant in identifying threats that

exist locally, and we can join our voices with others standing up for the environment through organisations such as the RSPB, the wildlife trusts and an assortment of online campaigns, we also need to be able to pass the baton of concern to the next generations.

Much has been said about young people's lack of interest in the natural world. We are told they spend too much time playing computer games, or on Facebook, rather than exploring

the great outdoors like their parents and grandparents did when they were kids. Well, there's some truth in that, but it is not the whole story. One recent Saturday morning 18 young people turned up to Harrow Road for a series of Nature Club activities about bats. Others attended the Wren trip to the Waterworks Nature Reserve in May. Indeed, nine-year-old Martha Smith wrote



9 year old Martha Smith - the Wren Group's youngest reporter (so far)

up her experience of the day for the website www.wrengroup.org.uk and for this newsletter (see page 7).

These young people are the future and we should be doing everything we can to encourage them. After all, an interest in the natural world is not just good for nature - it's

also good for our sanity in an age of relentless pressure.

So, if you know any children between the ages of eight and 13, why not mention the Nature Club to their parents? If you know any schools that might be prepared to invite an outside speaker, perhaps from the City of London Corporation, maybe consider suggesting it? And if you have any ideas about how a concern for conservation may be

made more attractive for young people locally, please contact us and share your ideas.

Enjoy the summer!
Tim



a word from the editor

Welcome to the Summer Wren newsletter. Remember this is an electric newsletter so we can include links to other sites and snippets of information. When you see blue underlined text it means that it is a link. Just click on the link for more information or to be taken to another site. Clicking the link will always take you to another

frame so your newsletter will still be there in the background – just close the new window to continue reading your newsletter.

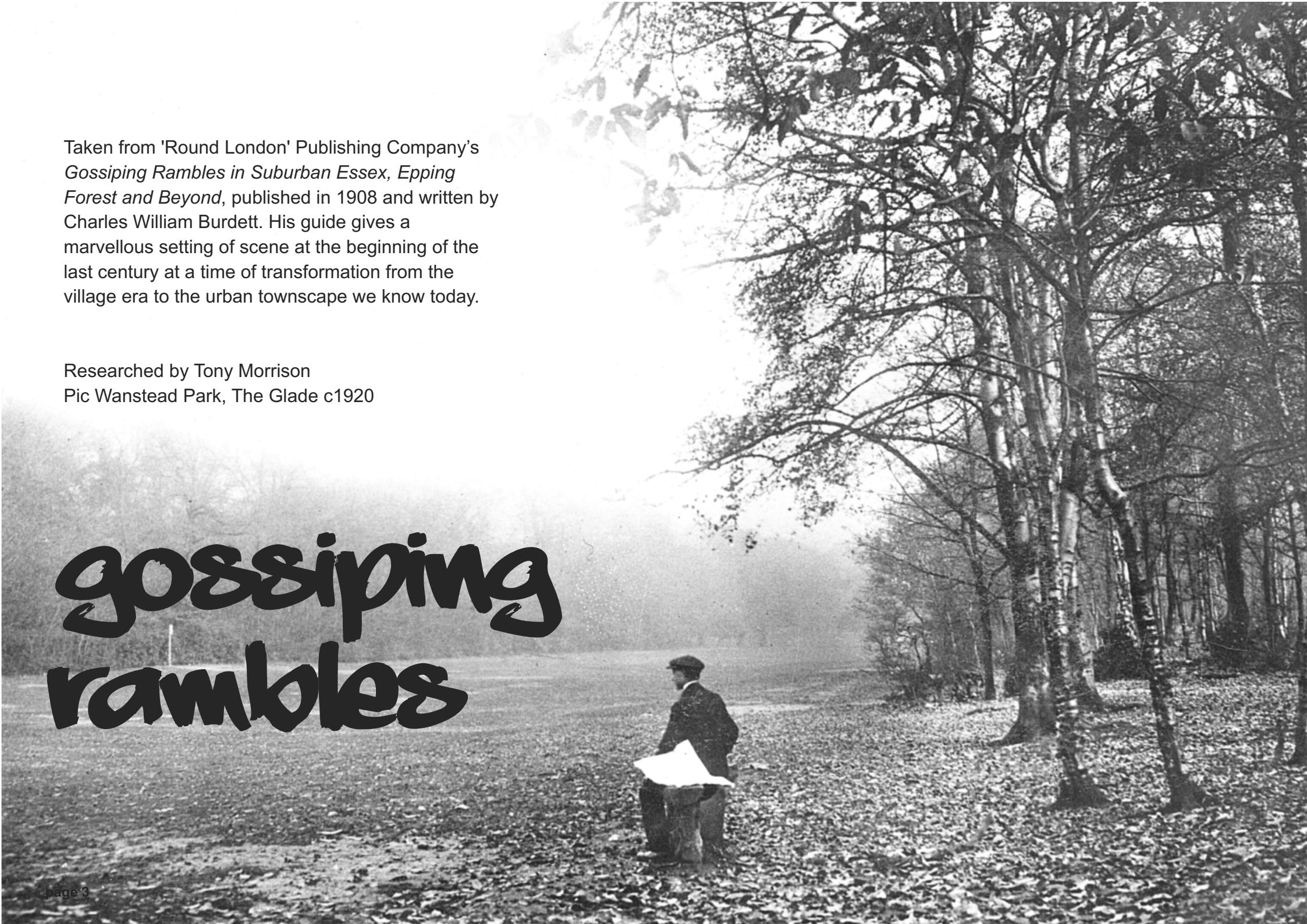
Previous newsletters can now be found on the wren website at <http://www.wrengroup.org.uk/about-us/newsletter/>

Remember this is your newsletter and will not survive without your support so if you have any news, views or stories please send them to me at editor@wrengroup.org.uk

Taken from 'Round London' Publishing Company's *Gossiping Rambles in Suburban Essex, Epping Forest and Beyond*, published in 1908 and written by Charles William Burdett. His guide gives a marvellous setting of scene at the beginning of the last century at a time of transformation from the village era to the urban townscape we know today.

Researched by Tony Morrison
Pic Wanstead Park, The Glade c1920

gossiping rambles



Wanstead park

Quitting the precincts of the few bricks showing the old foundations of the house we turn to the left, and either follow the legitimate pathway or make a short cut across the gravel pits to the entrance to Wanstead Park, entering by a little wicket-gate. Some of its many beauties are indicated in the following verses:-

Dear Wanstead Park! what joys are thine,
How many a shady nook,
Where I may at my ease recline,
Or saunter with a book.

The cuckoo shouts his loud clear note
And waits his mate's reply;
The Thristle (Song Thrush) swells her speckled
throat
With songs that pierce the sky.

Across the glade a rabbit runs,
His scut raised high in air,
He thinks he hears the keeper's guns,
And hies him to his lair.

Bold robin pipes his cheerful strain,
His notes rise higher and higher,
Alas! he hears a rival's song
His bosom flames with fire.

The blackbird trills a roundelay,
O lovely gush of sound!
Which through the quivering summer's day
Fills all the air around.

The linnet flits from tree to tree,

While twittering songs of love,
And hush! there steals across the Lea
The cooing of the dove.

The insects hum in mazy round,
The leaves are whispering too;
A brown rat glides along the ground,
And disappears from view.

High overhead the solemn crow
Wheels in his homeward flight,
Then settles on some tree's top bough
As gently falls the night.

Dear Wanstead Park what joys are thine
Through all the changeful year,
Thy beauties to this heart of mine,
Are dear and yet more dear!

Among thy glades the children play,
Light-hearted, happy, free,
'Till Nature flings her mantle grey
O'er bird, and flower, and tree.

Long may I know those pleasant glades,
Long may my heart rejoice
To wander 'neath thy leafy shades
Entranced by nature's voice!

"That voice which never did betray
The heart whose love is true"
So sang sweet Wordsworth in his day;
Dear Wanstead Park—Adieu!

To those who are acquainted with this charming spot, the above lines will seem but a feeble reflex of its many attractions. If we take into account the fact that the Park is but six miles or so from Liverpool Street, it is matter for wonder that so

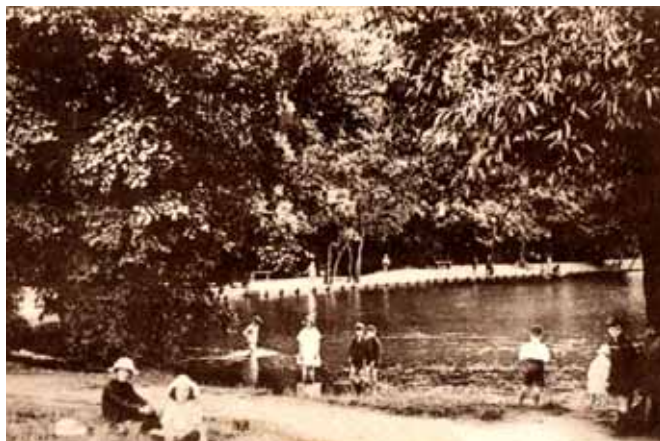
many scenes of lovely wildness can yet be found there. Shady walks and bosky dells abound; there are fine glades and open meadow-like spaces; the River Roding, small but pretty, winds its cheerful way along a pebbly channel towards the ever-waiting Thames, lying just below at the end of Barking Creek; in summer and winter, spring and autumn there is always something to attract the eye and please the fancy. When the foliage on the trees is at its best; when the ponds and lakes are full of the flush of summer life, one might easily imagine oneself to be a hundred miles away from the rush and roar of London. The air is full of sweet scents and sounds; the brilliant dragon fly in his glittering coat of fire with his gauzy wing trembling in the palpitating air; the hum of insect life, the softened sound of the cawing of the rooks, the shrill note of blackbird and thrush fill the heart with delight.



In the spring the glades are carpeted with the lowly bluebell, the honeysuckle hangs in patches here and there, while the stately heron and the ubiquitous crow may be seen busily engaged in

household cares upon the swaying tops of the high trees of Lincoln Island.

It must be admitted that the distinctly rural character of the park has been to some extent affected by the rapid and indeed phenomenal growth of the suburbs of East and West Ham during the last ten or fifteen years.



We are now in a scene of sylvan beauty the like of which it would be hard to find anywhere else in England, certainly not within many miles of the metropolis. Epping Forest has many beauty spots, which in their own way are unrivalled, but Wanstead Park in summer time is so sweet and restful that one's senses are at once charmed and ravished by it. Let us take the path on our left hand. This leads us in a few minutes to the ornamental water in which are situated Lincoln Island, Rook Island, etc., and our ears and eyes are at once provided with sweet sounds and lovely scenes. As we saunter along the pathway we note perchance the stately heron, his long legs outspread behind him as he sails majestically over the tops of the high trees; or we see a shy moorhen silently

stealing away to the safe shelter of the opposite bank. A little further along we note the flapping wings of several ducks which are chasing each other into the recesses of Rook Island. Lovely patches of water-lilies adorn the placid surface of the lake, spreading out their broad leaves to the rays of the cheerful sunlight which streams through the overhanging branches of willow, beech and chestnut.

"Men may Come and Men may Go."

On our extreme left is the River Roding, lurking sleepily in little pools and hollows, or hurriedly waking up to the fact that it has yet several miles to go ere it reaches Barking Creek on its way to the waiting Thames; rushing over its pebbly bed now with quite a noisy clatter, as one who should say, "See what I can do if I really try!"



The Grotto

By and bye we cross over a pretty little meadow which is within the park, and strike into a path leading along the opposite side of the lake, until we reach a spot which all visitors stop to admire, a picture of rare beauty. It is The Grotto, now a sad



ruin, empty shell. It never was anything, but a pleasure freak, and possesses no historical interest, but its splendid setting across the long stretch of water, embosomed among the trees, its quaint air of antiquity, its ruinous appearance, have made it the subject of countless pictures by pen, pencil, and camera. (Incidentally, it may be mentioned that permission to use a camera in the park must be obtained from the City of London authorities at the Guildhall, E.C.; and the right to fish in the ornamental water can be obtained from "The Temple" in the park itself. Tickets for fishing are 2s. per day. The lakes other than the ornamental water are free. The extent of the park is about 184 acres, of which about 30 acres are water.)

Formerly the Grotto was more picturesque than at present, if we may judge from photographs and written descriptions.

It is improbable that any such building would be erected to-day, as they are no longer in vogue. But the somewhat meretricious style of that day, that of Louis XIV. was widely spread, and showed itself in many forms. Everywhere the bizarre was sought;

this grotto was merely a symptom of the disease. It has the appearance of an ancient ruin, and was always designed to have that effect, so much so that strangers often think it to be at least several hundred years old. As a matter of fact its age is about 150 years. Its primary cost is said to have been £2,000, the after additions amounting to more than ten times that sum. Its roof was dome shaped, the inside being highly ornamented with pebbles, shells, crystals, and rare and costly stones. A remarkable tessellated pavement made of small deer bones, costing many thousands of pounds was one of its attractions, a fine stained glass window was another. Not less than £30,000 is said to have been spent upon its embellishment. This sum may be grossly exaggerated, but when all deductions have been made it remains a fact that quite a fortune was spent upon it. When Wanstead House was destroyed, the Grotto, either by design or accident, was left untouched. The view from its windows was most enchanting. At this point the lake opens out into lovely bays and little promontories, the banks verdant in summer or majestically stern in winter, with hundreds of trees dipping their long branches into the mirrored surface below, in which aquatic plants and birds abound.

At one time the Roding flowed directly into the lake at this spot, but was afterwards diverted into its present channel. In November, 1884, a destructive fire broke out in the Grotto, and the place was wrecked. The domed roof has quite gone, the tessellated pavement is no more, the ancient glories have departed, never to return. A small waterway at the rear gives shelter to the park keepers' punt, but the boats laden with ladies in silks and satins, their bosoms glittering with precious stones are but dim memories of the past.

" Nought now remains, .Save these sad relics of departed pomp, These spoils of time, a monumental pile ! Which to the rain its mournful tale relates, And warns us not to trust to fleeting dreams." Richard Jago. "Kenilworth Castle."



The Short Cut

Having mused and rested long enough, we proceed to further investigation of the park, taking a path which leads through the undergrowth in a diagonal direction, afterwards crossing a fine open glade (of which there are several) until we reach a pretty rustic bridge leading to what is known as the Short Cut from Ilford. An inscription upon it informs us "The Short Cut to Wanstead Park was initiated in 1894 by the Ilford Ratepayers Association, and opened by W. P. Griggs, Esq., J.P., E.C.C., the donor of this bridge, on 21st June, 1902." This has been a great boon to thousands. It also affords a ready means of communication with Cranbrook Park, Ilford, and the Valentines, of which more anon.

We retrace our steps for a few yards, entering upon a path close at hand, which winds in and out

among the undergrowth, until at length we emerge close by the keepers' lodges, and " The Temple " before referred to. Close by is the pretty little pavilion or chalet, used as a refreshment room, and forming quite a pretty picture with its deep setting of green forest trees. There is a fine open meadow-like space here, used for lawn tennis, hockey, cricket, etc., well patronised by sundry clubs. On the right are also the links of the Wanstead Park Golf Club, but these are not actually in the park itself.

Crossing the open we have now come to the Perch Pond and Bathing Lake on our Herons, left hand, with the so called Heronry Pond on our right. This latter v pond was originally the home of these large birds, but they have not inhabited it for quite a number of years, preferring Lincoln Island in the ornamental lake instead. They do not seem to mind the people in the park at all, but are greatly bothered by the thieving rooks, who chase them unmercifully. Heronry Pond has recently been deepened and much altered in shape (the work of the unemployed, 1906-7) and is again a large sheet of water, but at present somewhat ugly in appearance. Nature is already smoothing away its asperities with her gentle fingers; in a few more years it will look more like its former self. Crossing between the two lakes we make our exit into Wanstead Park Avenue, at the top of which are electric cars to Manor Park Station. Soon we are en route for Liverpool Street glad to have seen this beautiful park, rejoicing that it is open to the people for ever.

Researched by Tony Morrison



On Sunday 12 May about a dozen Wren Group members visited Waterworks Nature Reserve and Middlesex Filter Beds, just off the Lea Bridge Road.

Kite surprise on Waterworks trip

Martha Smith (aged 9) takes up the story: "On the walk, we saw many different species of butterflies, birds and even a Fox or two. Our journey began when we looked in the bushes for butterflies, but while doing so we heard Wrens singing their merry tune in the distance. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to see a Wren although we tried.

After searching the bushes for a few minutes we surprisingly came across a Small White butterfly and a Green-veined White butterfly! Afterwards we discovered a few kinds of plants and I found out which kind of nettles sting and which don't. We also came across some male Blackbirds squabbling over their territory.



To our surprise, we found another wonderful species of butterfly, a Speckled Wood. Next we came to the hides, so first we looked out of a hide window and immediately spotted a male and female Mute Swan. If we were patient and waited long enough we would be able to see the nesting female's eggs when she stood up; we finally spotted four eggs when she started preening.



Slowly but surely we made our way round every single one of the hide windows. Round the outside of one of the enclosures we saw a Fox prowling round and I assumed he/she was after the swan or her eggs. While looking, we also found some more Small Whites flying around quite sharply.

On the way out of the hides one of the group spotted a Red Kite flying high above and I got rather excited.

As it got later, with the sun beating down relentlessly, we decided to scour the meadow for some more fascinating species of butterfly. First we saw an Orange Tip butterfly but after a while of finding nothing we had almost given up. Suddenly one of us shouted to the others that she had just found a Peacock and sent Jacob to inform the others of their spectacular discovery. Fortunately they arrived in time to get some

shots of this flaming deep-red butterfly laying its eggs on nettles.



Then one of the older members of the group heard the faint tap, tap, tapping of a far-off woodpecker and while most of the group went to get a closer look, I had to make my journey home."

Birds seen or heard: Mute Swan (2), Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pochard (12), Tufted Duck, Little Grebe (2), Cormorant, Grey Heron, Red Kite (1), Hobby (1), Moorhen, Coot, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Feral Rock Dove, Woodpigeon, Common Swift, Green Woodpecker (2), Sand Martin (1), Swallow (3), Grey Wagtail (2), Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Reed Warbler (10+), Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff (1), Willow Warbler (1), Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jay, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch.

Butterflies seen: Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Holly Blue, Brimstone, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell.

Article by Martha Smith
Pics by Anita McCullough



My family have always lived close by Wanstead Flats and have considered it to be a privilege.

My mum used to tell me about the bandstand near the corner of Capel and Centre Roads, just beyond the pond, and how every Sunday afternoon a band would play a melody of music. People would come with their deck chairs and blankets to enjoy a free afternoon of music and songs. Mum was only around 8 years old at the time but loved to sing – she would ‘perform’ singing the same song she knew by heart every time. The song was “Daisy, Daisy give me your answer do ……” She would tell me that she didn’t have a ‘posh frock’ but always wore her cleanest frock and Gran always made sure she had

on clean drawers and had a clean hankie up her sleeve. Mum would high kick her legs and flap her frock while waving her hankie as she sang to the crowds.

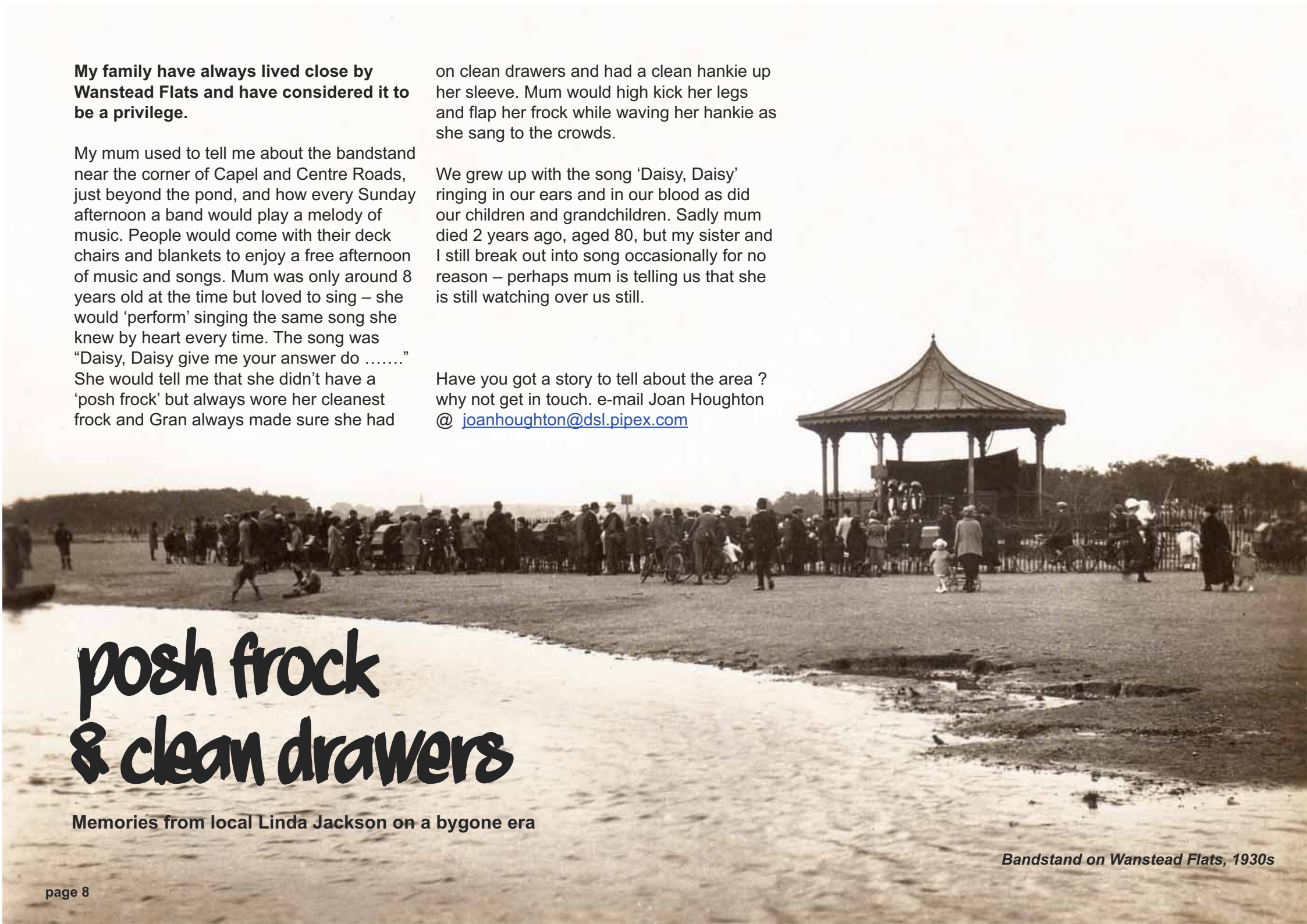
We grew up with the song ‘Daisy, Daisy’ ringing in our ears and in our blood as did our children and grandchildren. Sadly mum died 2 years ago, aged 80, but my sister and I still break out into song occasionally for no reason – perhaps mum is telling us that she is still watching over us still.

Have you got a story to tell about the area ? why not get in touch. e-mail Joan Houghton @ joanhoughton@dsl.pipex.com

**posh frock
& clean drawers**

Memories from local Linda Jackson on a bygone era

Bandstand on Wanstead Flats, 1930s



the skylark survey



Stage 1

Our Skylarks are now settling down to nest and have already become less vocal. Birds will still be singing from time to time but their songflights will be more intermittent as they incubate eggs and raise fledglings. If conditions remain good they will produce two broods. In some years, three broods are possible but given the lateness of spring I think that is highly unlikely this year.

Thanks to the work that the Wren Group's Skylark survey team put in, we have a pretty good idea that this year there are at least seven Skylark territories in the core area east of Centre Road. This is probably very slightly down on 2012 though significantly down on the years 2009–2011. It is hard to be sure what the reasons are for this decline. After all, the birds have to deal with a variety of pressures.

However, I would hazard a guess that last year's very poor summer weather has been the biggest factor in the decline in 2013 compared with 2012. I don't think breeding productivity was good last year because it was wet and cool for much of the breeding season, and this poor productivity probably impacted on the number of birds returning in spring 2013. I also have my suspicions that some of the cut grass areas are too large in the core breeding area, but this is hard to prove.

This spring's display period has been more compressed than normal because conditions were so cold in March. For example, one of our Saturday surveys was conducted in a blizzard! However, the real test will come in the next few weeks. Are the adults getting enough food to feed hungry nestlings, and are the young avoiding

predators? We will be keeping a lookout for family parties and trying to estimate the number of young birds that have fledged. This is even harder than counting territories, by the way! Just a note on dog walkers' behaviour. There are indications that most dog-walkers have shown a



responsible attitude, respecting the signage we put up in early March. Many have been putting their dogs on the leash as they enter the site. This is heartening. Unfortunately, there have also been instances of people who just don't give a damn, letting their dogs chase all over the place. I'm not sure what can be done about this but I feel that the City of London Corporation has a role to play in offering stronger protection to this area during these crucial months.

Report by Tim Harris



Thanks to: Peter Adams, Jenny Coverdale, Nick Croft, Paul Ferris, David Giddings, Joanne Harris, Kathy Hartnett, Gill James, Sharon Payne for their assistance.

Pics by Nick Croft

A Crow's Day

*Fresh from his egg, a crow looked out
his world to re-arrange it.
As he matured, he looked again,
and saw no need to change it.*

*"Why don't you care to leave your mark?"
The owl called out in passing.
"You'll have to hurry, if you dare,
Life is not everlasting!"*

*The crow, now grown, surveyed the scene,
and found it to his pleasure.
His life was yet, had always been,
an everlasting leisure.*

*"Care not", he crowed, should this day pass:
"it's long enough to live in".
The owl sped by and dwindled fast,
enamored with the living.*

*The crow surveyed his perfect tree,
surveyed his perfect pond.
Surveyed his perfect sky above,
and knew that he belonged.*

*"No need to change a thing", cried he.
"No need to re-arrange it!"
As many changes came to be,
And crows need not explain it.*

Poem by the Crow <http://poemsforcrows.blogspot.co.uk/>



Pic - Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, one of the many species thought to be in trouble. Pic by Tony Morrison



is uk wildlife in trouble ?

Report by Tony Morrison

A report published by a number of leading conservation and research organisations recently concluded that UK wildlife is in trouble.

The '**State of Nature Report**', compiled by 25 wildlife organisations - from the RSPB to the British Lichen Society – pulls together assessments of some 3,148 species. The report concludes that a stocktake of UK nature suggests something like 60% of British animal and plant species have declined in the past 50 years, and one in 10 could disappear altogether.

Among those being hardest hit are Turtle Doves, Water Voles, Red Squirrels and Hedgehogs.

Reasons for the decline are "many and varied" but include rising temperatures and habitat degradation. Problems further compounded by the fact that there are a third more people living in this country in past 50 years or so.

Species requiring specific habitats have fared particularly poorly compared to the generalists able to adapt to the country's changing environment.

The document pulls together data from individual reports published in recent years charting how bees, birds, moths and mammals fare in the UK. But the data - collected by volunteer enthusiasts through myriad surveys - still only covers 5% of the UK's estimated 59,000 native species.

While the report reveals noticeable gaps in some data, particularly for invertebrates, fungi and marine species, it offers expertise in areas such as mosses and marine conservation.

Dr Fiona Burns, a lead author of the report, hopes future editions will include even more groups.

"By including those people and including their expertise, even though we've not got as much information about fungi or other groups, we can promote the importance of these groups in UK flora and fauna," she said.

In the past, threatened animals and plants considered "priority species" have been included on government Biodiversity Action Plans to formalise and target conservation actions to halt and reverse declines.

The *State of Nature* report outlines a new "watchlist indicator" which charts how populations of these species have fared in the last 50 years. The overall trend is a 77% decline, despite some successes, including Bitterns and Adonis Blue butterflies.

The *State of Nature* report was launched by

Sir David Attenborough and UK conservation charities at the Natural History Museum in London Wednesday, May 22, with simultaneous events happening in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.



Hedgehogs could be a thing of the past if we do not take action. Pic by Tricia Moxey



Sir David Attenborough said: "This groundbreaking report is a stark warning – but it is also a sign of hope."

"This report shows that our species are in trouble, with many declining at a worrying rate. However, we have in this country a network of passionate conservation groups supported by millions of people who love wildlife. The experts have come together to highlight the amazing nature we have around us and to ensure that it remains here for generations to come."



Conservationists say that a definitive list of the UK's most endangered species is hard to provide because of the difficulties involved in comparing such different species - each with particular needs and issues.

But as an overview of the problems, the report highlights the following species from across 10 of the UK's diverse groups:

- Turtle Doves have declined by 93% since 1970
- Hedgehogs have declined by around a third since the millennium
- The Small Tortoiseshell butterfly has declined in abundance by 77% in the last ten years
- Natterjack Toad numbers have changed little since 1990
- The Early Bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*) and the Tormentil Mining Bee (*Andrena tarsata*) have shown strong declines in range since 1970
- The population size of the V-moth is estimated to be less than 1% of what it was in the 1960s
- Corn Cleaver has undergone one of the most dramatic declines of any plant species
- Harbour seals have declined by 31% in Scottish waters since 1996
- There is only a single Bastard Gumwood tree left in the whole world

On a more positive note, the report shows that targeted conservation has produced inspiring success stories and, with sufficient determination, resources and public support, we can turn the fortunes of our wildlife around.

For more reading and source material go to;
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/stateofnature/index.aspx>

spring invertebrate report



Damselfly - Pic by Tony Morrison

This year's Spring continued to be a long drawn out affair, and even as I write this towards the end of May, I have had the central heating on!

Things looked up a bit in April, but only on a limited number of days. On 9th April it seemed worthwhile putting the moth trap out, but the catch by the following morning was just one **Common Quaker** moth and an *Ophion* species wasp, although Tim Harris did a bit better and caught a **Brindled Beauty** moth on the same night. There were a few Swallows over Wanstead Flats at about this time, but a couple were sitting on the twigs of a tree – the first I've ever seen perched around here. They seemed to be having a hard time of the long winter as well. On the 13th **Pond Skaters** were to be seen on my garden pond, there was frogspawn, and a **hoverfly** *Eristalis tenax* was identified on Wanstead Flats. Then in the



Bee-fly *Bombylius Major* - Pic by Paul Ferris

City of London Cemetery on the 14th as well as numerous spiders and bumblebees on a fine and sunny day, the first **Bee-fly** *Bombylius major* of the year. This is a hairy fly with a distinctly long proboscis which mimics a bee, and is one of my favourite creatures. A few warm days produced a **Comma** butterfly and not-too-cold nights **Herald** and **Early Grey** moths from the garden moth trap.



Pond Skater - Pic by Tony Morrison

On the 29th April I noted mining activities by Alexandra Lake, with representatives of *Andrena* **mining-bees** – possibly *A. fulva* – doing the work. These mining-bees are quite different from the bumblebees that were also in evidence at this time – much smaller, for example than the common **Buff-tailed bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris*, or the other that was much in evidence – the **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius*. However,

good conditions for bees didn't last very long and we were all complaining about how long a true spring was taking to arrive.



Cranefly *Tipula Larva* - Pic by Paul Ferris

By the 1st May, Tim had accumulated a total of only 16 moth species during this year, and I only 6. However one or two new species for the area were cropping up in early May including the micro-moth *Pyrausta despicata* and a **Red-green Carpet**, which is one of the larger or “macro” moths. As a reminder, micro-moths are (usually) the very small ones, whereas the more obvious (usually) larger ones are termed macro-moths.

On the butterfly front, **Holly Blues** began to appear in my garden and elsewhere on 2nd May and in Wanstead Park and on 3rd there were **Orange Tips**, **Speckled Wood**, and **Peacock**, plus **Green-veined Whites**, **Large**

Whites and **Small Whites** in Aldersbrook Exchange Lands.



Green Hairstreak - Pic by Paul Ferris

My first damselfly of the year was – as usual – a **Large Red**, in my garden on the 6th May, after which I had a look at Wanstead Park. Two invertebrates of particular interest caught my attention by Heronry Pond – indeed both in the pond. The first was initially at the edge in some undergrowth, but jumped into the water as I disturbed it. It looked like a grasshopper – and had jumped like one - but this was very early in the year for a grasshopper. It was swimming quite well in the water, and I identified it as a **Slender Ground-hopper** *Tetrix subulata* – closely related to grasshoppers and crickets, but distinct and likely to be active at this time of year. I've only ever seen one before, and that too was near Heronry Pond. I should add that although

water-borne for a minute or so, it was not apparently in distress and indeed jumped out of the water with apparent ease! Nearby – and again in the water - was a peculiar creature resting on or attached to some vegetation. It looked a little like a leech, but was a light-green colour and somewhat wrong in shape. Photographs later helped me to identify it as the larva of a *Tipula* species **crane fly**. I'd been catching sight of a **Great Diving Beetle** in my garden pond for some time, but it had surfaced only briefly then dived and swam rapidly out of sight into the depths. On 7th May I managed to photograph it at the surface and identify it as a female *Dytiscus marginalis*.



Large Red Damselfly - Pic by Paul Ferris

I missed the appearance of any other species in the area as I left for the north of Scotland on the 10th. Tim had a really nice specimen in his moth trap on 7th - a **Broom Tip** *Chesias*

rufata, which was a new species for the area. This was worthy of a bit of research, and Tim could find no reference to any records in our area since at least 1989 on the Essex Field Club database. Indeed, in Essex it only seems to have been recorded in a handful of squares since that time. Wanstead Flats does have plenty of broom, so we may have a population. Another new species whilst I was away was a **Yellow-barred Brindle moth**, caught in Tim's Lakehouse trap on 20th May.



Wasp Ophion - Pic by Paul Ferris

My return from the otters and sea-eagles of Scotland was to a greener Wanstead than I'd left, but to a colder one than I'd encountered further north. That put paid to much moth-trapping, and the weather was not that clement even for venturing forth. However bits of sunshine showed a variety of hoverflies now

visiting my garden – with numbers of the territorial *Helophilus pendulus* – one or two guarding their part of my pond-side. A **daddy-long legs spider** which had taken up position between my fridge and kitchen wall at the end of April was still there and seemed unperturbed by my return.



Mining Bee - Pic by Paul Ferris

On 27th May I received a text from Tim saying “Green Hairstreak colony on Wanstead Flats”. I was directed to a bramble patch on Wanstead Flats, where he had seen six or possibly more, though the ones I saw shortly after were in Hawthorns somewhat distant, making forays each time the sun came out. This is the first report of **Green Hairstreak butterflies** in our area, save for a possible one I saw some years ago by the Grotto. It is a widespread species, but found in very localised communities due to habitat loss so it

is quite something that we have a population here.

More species of damselflies were beginning to emerge as the weather became warmer at the very end of May. Most that were seen on 31st May were in the teneral stage, which is just after they have emerged from the pupal stage. They still had the silvery-wings and pale bodies without the full adult colouring, so apart from some **Large Red**, some **Blue-tailed** and some **Red-eyed Damselflies**, species were difficult to tell apart. Down by the Heronry Pond, leaves of Flag Iris had numbers of the **Long-jawed Orb-web Spiders** on them, and a few very small **Slender Ground-hoppers** were seen, young ones indicating a healthy population.



Pic Slender Ground Hopper - by Paul Ferris

It has been a difficult spring for us naturalists interested in insects, and probably for the



Large White - Pic by Tony Morrison

insects themselves, but we have found a few new species and have seen the return of some of our regulars.

That was going to be the last paragraph, but as I finished I became aware that there was a butterfly sharing my room with me: a fine example of a **Large White**. It posed considerably – although somewhat nervously – whilst I took a few photos, then I showed it the way to the outside world. Nature really is all around us, and indeed, with us!

Report by Paul Ferris



so great crested grebes then!

Article and pics by Nick Croft

It has all gone sadly wrong !

I was hoping to bring you the joys of humbug chicks nestling on the back of their mother, while dad keeps up the fish meals, their squeaky, insistent and persistent calling, their first hesitant forays into the water.

Disaster has struck! Again!

The first nesting attempt failed as the adults sat on eggs near to hatching and relative safety. Why? We presumed Mink. Not to worry it was early spring and the birds tried again. They just moved back to the original nest that they had previously decided was not up to muster, on the south side of the Heronry. I too had time to spare before this piece was required and with luck I would still be able to proclaim humbugs.



This week a new twist in nature's tail meant that the waiting is over, but in completely the wrong way. On my travels through the park on Monday I noticed, or didn't notice, the second adult bird. I presumed mum was still brooding. However, she didn't look all that well at ease, furtively she looked for her partner. Tuesday confirmed our worst fears: no sign of the male and the nest was abandoned. The eggs already appeared to have been predated. Unsurprisingly, the one bird had considered it impossible to look after herself and

the eggs and had chosen self preservation. Again we presume a Mink to blame, with one of the ever-present Lesser Black-backs the beneficiary of the situation. It is desperately sad and you feel like blaming someone. The fur trade is truly awful but the ignorance of those who released these Mink decades ago will cause problems for our wildlife now and for the decades to come.

Maybe, just maybe, the lone male on Perch Pond will get his chance and she will try again, but it's a long shot, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if the she just leaves for safer waters... So Great Crested Grebes, then!

We have a lot to be thankful for because of these birds. Their near destruction in the 19th century for the fashion trade, gave rise to the RSPB (and they've gone on to do rather well now, owning land the size of Greater Manchester), and their elegant grace and beauty fills the void on our summer lakes, left by the departed wintering ducks. The grebe too has done rather well in the last fifty or so years, thanks to our love of digging up bits of gravel and sand to build things with, creating big holes which fill with water and we fill with fish. Wanstead does well for fairly big holes: dug through a love of looking at water, but its only Heronry and The Basin that appear to have what a Great Crested Grebe wants for raising a family. Two years ago, 2 pairs set up on Heronry only to have their nests also raided (Mink probably!) just before the eggs hatched. Two of the adults also disappeared, leaving their bereft partners to fish alone the summer through. Last year one pair returned and were more successful and three humbug-coloured chicks were successfully reared. Being a water bird appears to mean you do a lot of



Grebe chicks from last year

sleeping, and it's like that with the largest member of the grebe family. When was the last time you saw a Little Grebe dozing, unflustered by things going on around them in the middle of the lake? Never. They are positive dynamos compared with their larger cousins and certainly more communicative and interactive. The Great Crested Grebe is not such a vocal animal and it's harsh "vrek-vrek" certainly not as musical as the trilling Dabchick.

Not a resident of the park, our birds disperse to the larger reservoirs, the Thames or the coast where they can congregate in large numbers. I've recorded over 100 wintering birds on the William Girling in the last few years. They return towards the end of March to take up their territories and while not particularly aggressive they will see off any intruder. Once the female returns, courtship can start in earnest and you may be lucky enough to see it as the two birds face each other and bashfully appear to try and avoid the other's stare in a synchronised dance of head movement gaining pace until one shyly breaks off.



They are wonderfully elegant birds, designed by evolution to perfection for their lifestyle. The façade slips as they struggle on land. Feet placed too far back means a penguin-like waddle, so it's usually confined to the nest and to get there, a rather athletic hop from the water.

Sadly we may now have to wait till next year and it feels like a huge hole has been torn in my summer. I try and equate my human emotions to what she must be feeling, but that is quite wrong. There's no room in nature for that kind of self-pitying sentimentality. Life must go on.



Article and pics by Nick Croft.

You can follow Nick on his excellent blog @ <http://wansteadbirding.blogspot.co.uk/>



Grebe on the nest last year - Pic by Sofia Benajeh



an abundance of blossom

Article by Tricia Moxey

It is most encouraging that after the coldest spring for 50 or so years, many trees have responded with magnificent displays of flowers. This superabundance of blossom is a result of the ideal growing conditions last July and August when the immature flower buds were formed on twigs. They remained dormant through the chill of winter until the day length increased and temperatures rose caused them to burst forth in spectacular quantities! Large quantities of fruits are already forming on those trees which are wind pollinated such as ash, elm or oak and these will provide rich pickings for those creatures which feast on them, leaving some to germinate if the conditions are suitable.

Insect pollinated flowers are designed to attract passing pollinators as they have brightly coloured showy petals which shine out as beacons amongst the green leaves. The different pigments within these petals have an incredible range of colours and the RHS and the Flower Council of Holland have developed a colour chart for coding 896 of colours visible to our human eyes so a particular colour can be matched accurately.

This is of interest to flower arrangers or botanical artists and others, but does not take into account the fact that insects do not see colours as we do. Their eyes are able to visualise colours in other parts of the spectrum, especially in the ultra-violet region so that purple or lilac flowers are highly visible to them and the pollen of many flowers glows brightly too under UV light! There are some stunning photographs taken with special cameras to mimic what an insect would see available on various websites.



Meadow Cranesbill - Pic by Tricia Moxey

Many flowers have special guide lines to help the pollinators home in on the centre of the flower as shown in this meadow cranesbill flower. Nectar production requires energy and it is secreted by specialised tissue within each flower known as nectaries. Its secretion depends on an adequate supply of water and sunshine and is linked to the ideal ambient temperature for pollinator activity. The chemical composition of nectar is being examined in great detail, some nectars have more sucrose than fructose and may

contain other chemicals, too. The nectar from coffee and citrus flowers contains traces of caffeine and it appears that bees feeding on nectar from these plants are better at remembering which plants are worth visiting again! Insects also leave their own chemical traces on flowers which they have visited, this may signal to others that this is a good species to visit, or may indicate that they have sucked up all the nectar and that it is best to avoid this flower until it is replenished! Some fascinating work is being carried out at Bristol University on the electrical charges on flowers and shows that bumble bees can respond to minute fluctuations of these as a means of checking on a recent visit by another hungry bee.

Pollinators are attracted to the flowers by scents which are an incredible complex mixture of volatile chemicals. The release of these chemicals is linked to the activity period of likely pollinators, thus honeysuckle, which is pollinated by moths which fly at dusk, smells more fragrant at that time of day. Nectar and scent production are energy demanding processes and there is a complex mechanism within the plant tissues which shuts these down once pollination has occurred. To signal to a passing insect that the nectar has been depleted, there is often a colour change in the petals. This can be clearly seen in the horse chestnut which has yellow honey guides in fresh flowers, but these change to red once pollination has been effected!

I would urge you to use a hand lens to examine flowers within your gardens to look for honey guides on flowers and make a list of others that change colour when pollination has taken place. In any event, why not just sit in the sun and watch the various insects foraging on the flowers themselves! The Field Studies Council produces useful laminated guides to bees and butterflies.

These are available from the on-line shop www.field-studies-council.org or purchased from the bookshop at RHS Gardens at Hyde Hall. The 896 colour chart is available from the RHS costing £185 but a mini chart with a selection of 244 colours costs £25 plus p & p. www.rhs.org.uk You could of course have fun and make your own selection using paint charts from your local DIY store!



Wych Elm Fruits - Pic by Tricia Moxey

For stunning photos of flowers in UV light see Dr Klaus Schmitt's website, www.uvir.eu

Article and Pics by
Tricia Moxey





spring bird report



Wanstead Flats does the business yet again

Spring Bird Report

It was the coldest spring since 1962, March especially so. During the miserable, cold days of February and March local naturalists long for the year's first Northern Wheatear, a sign that spring is approaching – but for most they had to wait until April this year.



Male Wheatear - Pic by Nick Croft

Not that there wasn't interest before that. Waxwings remained loyal to the Earham Grove area of Forest Gate for a few days in March, three

Golden Plover briefly put in an appearance at the Fairground 'scrape', and sharp-eyed observers saw nine Curlews flying over the Flats on 8th. Tony Brown saw a Woodlark over the Flats on 19th and a Marsh Harrier flew east over the same location the following day. The first, and only, Northern Wheatear in March was seen in a blizzard near Alexandra Lake on 23rd. However, the big news of the month was a Stone Curlew the following day. Jono Lethbridge saw the bird after it had been flushed (not by him, he is keen to point out!) from the long grass east of Centre Road. The bird was later relocated near Jubilee Pond. Incredibly, this was the second record for the Flats in three years.

April is the spring migration month, but apart from a Little Ringed Plover that took a liking to the drained northern section of Jubilee Pond from 1st, the early part of the month was a quiet. Migrants were still held up far to the south of our area – northern France was freezing, too! When the migrant rush started, however, it didn't disappoint. Nick Croft found a first-winter male Black Redstart by Alexandra Lake on 11th, the first for our area for 42 years, apparently. An adult Kittiwake circled the same lake for a few minutes on 13th, another remarkable local record and another great find for Jono.

Then on 15th, the migrant tsunami hit London. On the Flats there were at least five Common Redstarts, a Whinchat, a Ring Ouzel and 27 Northern Wheatears. The last remained into the evening and I was amazed to encounter a flock of 19 of these beautiful birds near Coronation Copse. Wanstead Flats even received national recognition for its 'fall' that day, a day on which the first

Common Whitethroats were also seen. Over the course of the next fortnight, other familiar favourites put in their first appearances of 2013, in most cases birds en route to breeding grounds elsewhere: Yellow Wagtail, Hobby, Sedge Warbler, Common Swift and Garden Warbler, for example.



Little Ringed Plover- Pic by Nick Croft

In May, new migrants were still arriving – Swallows continued to flow through the area and Common Swifts arrived in big numbers. And birds were getting down to breeding. Tardy summer visitors included a Cuckoo in the SSSI on 11 May and a Common Tern in Wanstead Park on 15th. Indicative of national and local declines, there were no Turtle Doves and no Spotted Flycatchers. Another species to suffer a decrease in numbers locally is Garden Warbler; there were four spring records this year compared with just one bird in 2012 and one was on territory in the Old Sewage Works at the beginning of June.

Report by Tim Harris



jubilee pond update

As many of you will have seen work on the pond has started and is continuing at a pace!

The contractors Kingcombe Aquacare Ltd started on site in March.



The dam, or bund, going across the narrowest part of the pond, 3rd April 2013

A dam (or bund) was built at the narrowest point, about two thirds of the way to the north of the pond. The smaller area was drained, the water going into the large remaining area of the pond.



New lining being installed 24th April 2013

The contractors used nets to trap fish and aquatic mammals that were in the area being drained and these were transferred to the water in the remaining part of the pond. Ecologists have visited the site on three occasions to monitor the presence of invertebrates and have assisted with the relocation as well as briefing the contractor on mitigation measures. The pond remains at the same depth as previously but the edges will slope more gradually to encourage plants to grow and create a better habitat.

The Lakehouse Lake Project is represented at all the site meetings and we have already advised on risks, on the plants to be used and the location of the new dipping deck.

Progress has been good and we have had several comments as to the extremely professional way in which the site is being run.

The project is still on schedule to be completed in the summer (bearing in mind that many of the operations are weather dependent), but the repair to the pond is only the first stage.

Landscaping will follow on from this and planting will require a considerable volunteer input. Further information will be given when details have been finalised. It should be remembered how the pond looked after the 2003 project, the area around the pond was fairly barren and this will be the case again.



Newly filled north end 2nd May 2013

We are looking at how we can best celebrate the 'new' pond and hope to include as many local groups as possible. Any ideas will be most welcome!

Robert Howell
Secretary Lakehouse Lake Project



shining a light

There is a clear trend in much modern English-language nature writing to think of ‘place’ in many ways: not simply as a place on a map, or even as a community of humans, flora or fauna, but place as informed by its past and, by implication, headed towards a future. It’s a fruitful way of looking at the land, and one of its principal recent examples is *This Luminous Coast*, by Essex University environmental scientist Jules Pretty.



Tollesbury harbour

It’s a splendid production, illustrated with the

author’s own evocative black-and-white photographs. Pretty structured the book around his own coastal walk from the Essex side of the Dartford crossing to the Norfolk port of King’s Lynn, vaguely a homeward trek as Pretty grew up in Norfolk. But this was no walker’s manual; his way of working was to meet people, record wildlife, observe both as they interact with and shape the land and sea, and to conjure light:

“I know the sun should come, as the stars were bright from up on the nearby hill ... The sun appears this morning first as a yellow disturbance in the mist, grows and coalesces, and then reflecting on the water becomes a pair.” It would have been easy for him to write a mere travelogue. That would be to live too much in the present. As a scientist, Pretty is accustomed to the nature of time, both geological and generational, but before embarking on this work he immersed himself in writings on Essex and East Anglia to get a better understanding of the historian’s grasp on the fourth dimension. And this ability to stand between the viewpoints of arts and sciences lend the book a scope and depth that rewards re-reading.

It’s a bleak start. “This is a coast about to be lost,” he writes. “Not yet, but it will happen soon” – human lifetime soon, in part. For Pretty understands the multiple threats to the Anglian-and-Essex coast: as sea-waters bulge in a warming climate, and the slow geologic tilt of the British mainland raises the north-west and dips the south-east, the low-lying coastlines from the Thames to the Wash could not be more ill-sited. He details the multiple attempts of both nature and humans to resist the waves, from the mazy channels of the Essex saltmarshes to the many



The cliffs at the Naze

dykes and walls, some dating back to the thirteenth century.

And yet there is, as one reviewer has said, celebration here, perhaps because there is no preaching. He has the background to make elaborate technical points but refrains – he has much other technical writing for those who wish to pursue it. As he walked, he collected scraps of memorabilia to live on in a memory box. Here, in this light-filled work dealing with our local coast, those memories live on. And that is call to action enough.

Article and pics by Peter Aylmer





magical garden

Shushila Patel would like to extend a warm welcome to Wren members to visit her two front gardens located in the Ilford area.



downshift to flexible working hours. More time at home meant more time noticing the garden.

The garden is a vivid and alluring scene you can smell before you see it. From the pavement your eye is drawn over the tiny wild strawberries, sempervivum, flowering onions, geraniums and sedum to a rose with masses of deep pink blooms, which climbs over the tomatoes, up the wrought iron pillars at the porch, and wanders along the balcony above. On the other side of the doorway is a tea tree plant, also in full rich pink bloom.

The gardens are at their best between now and end of July. You are welcome to visit anytime no appointment needed equally you contact Shushila and she will be happy to show you the Gardens and the view from the Balcony. Contact Shushila on 07878871045 or e-mail her at shushpatel@hotmail.co.uk or just drop by the house at 32/34 Clarendon Gardens, IG1 3JN.

The gardens have been featured in no less than *The Times*. The article titled 'East of Ilford' describes how the paved over front was transformed, with help from friends and neighbours, into "an exotic extravaganza ... an oasis of colour and scent in a grey-paved desert".

Shush began to garden in earnest when poor health forced her to

You can read more about Shushila's garden on the Barkingside 21 blog <http://barkingside21.blogspot.co.uk/2011/05/shush-not-so-secret-garden.html>



Wanstead nature club

For children aged 7-13 years

Bring your youngster along to have fun with others learning about our local nature - birds, plants, trees, butterflies, pondlife, insects etc.

We meet at the changing rooms building, Harrow Road, Wanstead Flats E11 3QD the forth Saturday of every month 10 a.m. - 12a.m.

Run by local volunteers. Only £1.50 a session
To find out more and register to join please contact
Gill James 0208 989 4898
[e-mail gill.james@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.james@btinternet.com)

Supported by The Wren Wildlife & Conservation Group
and the City of London

Wanstead nature club

May Nature Club - Going 'BATS'

We learned lots about BATS at our May Club Meeting from Keith French, Head Forest Keeper. He showed us some bat detecting equipment and we listened to their high-pitched squeaks. There are lots of different kinds of bats, from vampire bats to pipistrelles, and they are very useful to us - for example, without bats there would be no chocolate! We passed round a tiny dead pipistrelle- a little dead furry thing in a matchbox. Bats are all around us and if we go into Wanstead Park at dusk on a warm evening we will see them flying around catching insects.



We were very busy today as EIGHTEEN children turned up (including a few tiddlers)! We all enjoyed looking at the things Keith had brought to show us, such as a large pickled grass snake, and did some detective work identifying a butterfly and a large egg shell found nearby.



Then we went outside with lots of helpful mums and played the Bat and Moth game, where the blindfolded Bat has to catch the quiet Moth, and then we went with some nets and bugpots to see what minibeasts we could find around the Cat and Dog Pond - tadpoles, slugs, spiders, and lots of small yellow meadow ants . We had a go at



knocking down lots of tiny caterpillars and bugs hiding in the lower branches of the oak tree with a walking stick.



We are hoping to organise a Bat Walk for children in the Park with Keith soon, so we can see (and hear) real live bats in motion!

Update and pics by Gill James



fighting for the forest 150 years on

You have probably never heard of George Peacocke, a Member of Parliament in Victorian England who represented Maldon in Essex. Yet he deserves our hearty thanks, for exactly 150 years ago this year, in 1863, he became the first politician to speak up to save Epping Forest from the developers.

Introducing a motion into the House of Commons to prevent enclosure of Crown lands up to 15 miles from London, Peacocke pointed out that apart from Victoria Park the people of East London had no other large open space near them apart from Epping Forest. The needs of this “densely packed” population were increasing as London’s population had grown by nearly half a million in the previous decade, he said. He also asked his fellow MPs how they would react if it was Richmond Park that was threatened rather than space near East London.

Though the government opposed Peacocke’s motion, his speech led to a Select Committee which reviewed enclosures in Epping Forest, and recommended that some of the forest should be kept for recreation.

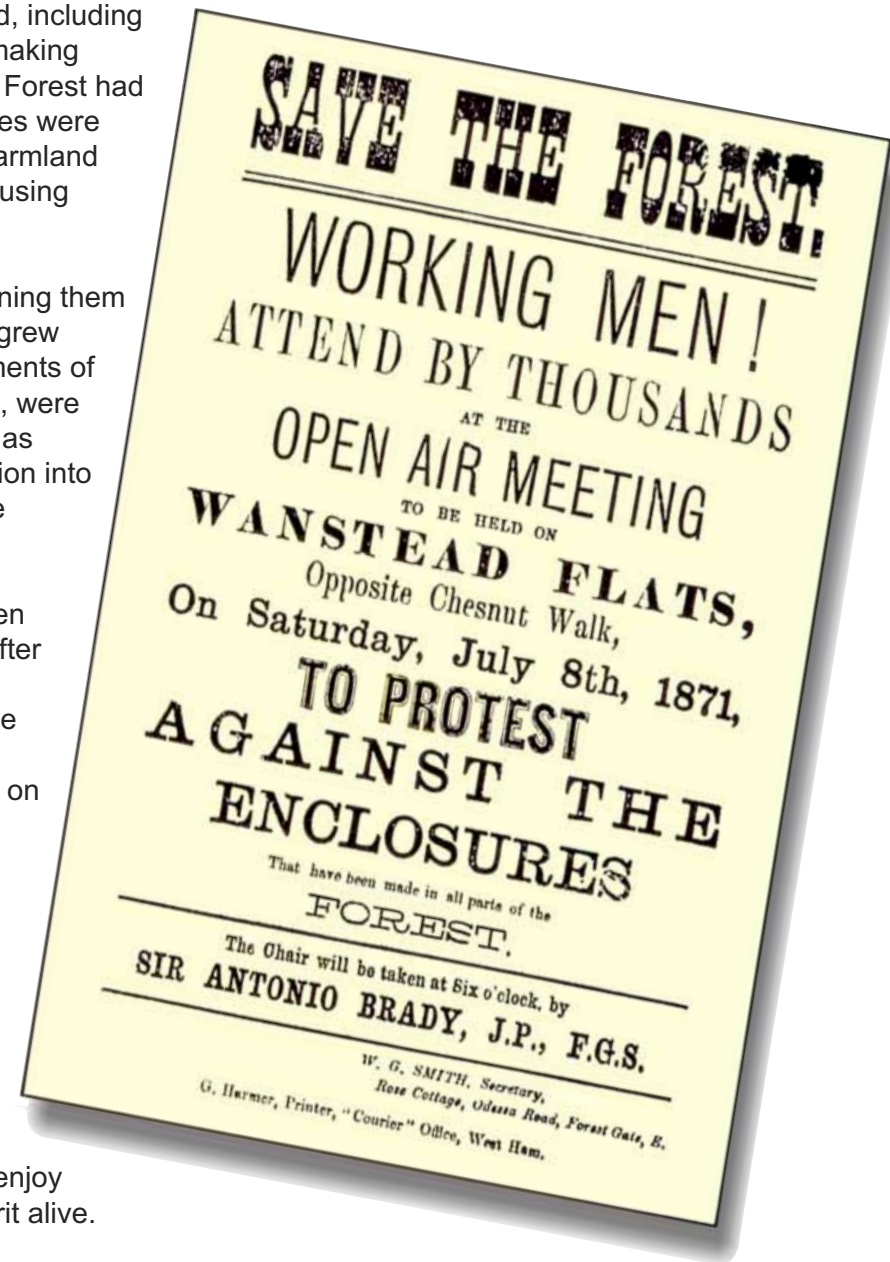
The alarm had been raised because increasing areas of forest land were being fenced off, either for farmland or building. The government was selling the Crown’s centuries-old rights for as little

as £1 an acre (the price paid by the Mornington estate for nearly 2000 acres in Wanstead, including Wanstead Flats) and landowners were making plans for development. In 1851 Hainault Forest had been abruptly enclosed; in six weeks trees were felled and a large area was turned into farmland (and subsequently of course became housing estates).

This brutal action shocked many, awakening them to the threat of development as London grew rapidly. It became clear that the governments of the day, far from protecting open spaces, were interested only in making as much profit as possible from the Crown lands. Conversion into productive farmland or housing therefore seemed to them a good option.

Epping Forest was only one of many open spaces threatened in these years, and after 1863 the campaign to save the forest gathered strength both inside and outside parliament, becoming part of a national movement. A number of its leaders went on to found mainstream organisations to preserve land and buildings such as the National Trust. Of course, the campaign for Epping Forest ended in victory 15 years after Peacocke’s speech, with the passing of the Epping Forest Act, but only after many hard-fought battles.

So we should remember with gratitude George Peacocke and his allies, who fought for the forest we now enjoy today, and ensure that we keep their spirit alive.



Above - original flyer highlighting the fight later on in the campaign

Article by Mark Gorman



short permissive cycle route in wanstead park

A public consultation last August asked local people if they would like to see a short permissive cycle route beside the Heronry Pond, linking the Northumberland Avenue gate with the cycle route beside the Golf Course to Warren

Road. The results were 157 in favour, 33 against, and 5 undecided. This was a decisive vote in favour.

Andrew Gammie, Senior Forest Keeper, writes: "We are hoping that the trial permissive cycle route along the side of the Heronry Pond should be in place and open by mid-July. We will be monitoring how this impacts on cycling, the rest of the park and all users groups and hope that everyone will enjoy the route with consideration for all."

Cycling in Wanstead Park has been banned since 1950, at a time when the roads were much quieter than they are now. There is now a strong current of opinion that we need to encourage people to use their cars less, in the interests of better air quality, better public health, and less road congestion.

Crossing Wanstead Park by bike or foot, rather than driving round it via Blake Hall Road, to reach the shops, school, library, tube



station, and friends and family is for many people an attractive option.

A campaign was started in 2010 by a group of Aldersbrook children (pictured) who wanted to cycle to their school, Wanstead High School, by a safe route across the Park but they were stopped by the keepers on their way to school.

Story by Gill James



now & then



In each edition of the Wren newsletter we will be showing you a picture of a street in our area taken around 100 years ago and how it looks today. Just for fun have a guess where this picture was taken (answer back page).

If you would like to see your area in this slot why not get in touch and we will see what we can do.

gallery



1



3



5



2



4



6



7

- 1. Peacock butterfly - Tim Harris
- 2. Ring-necked Parakeets - John Dinely
- 3. Flowering Broom - Andrew Spencer
- 4. Pigeon - Tony Morrison

- 5. Pale Prominent moth - Tim Harris
- 6. Grass Snake - Tim Harris
- 7. Drake Goldeneye - Nick Croft

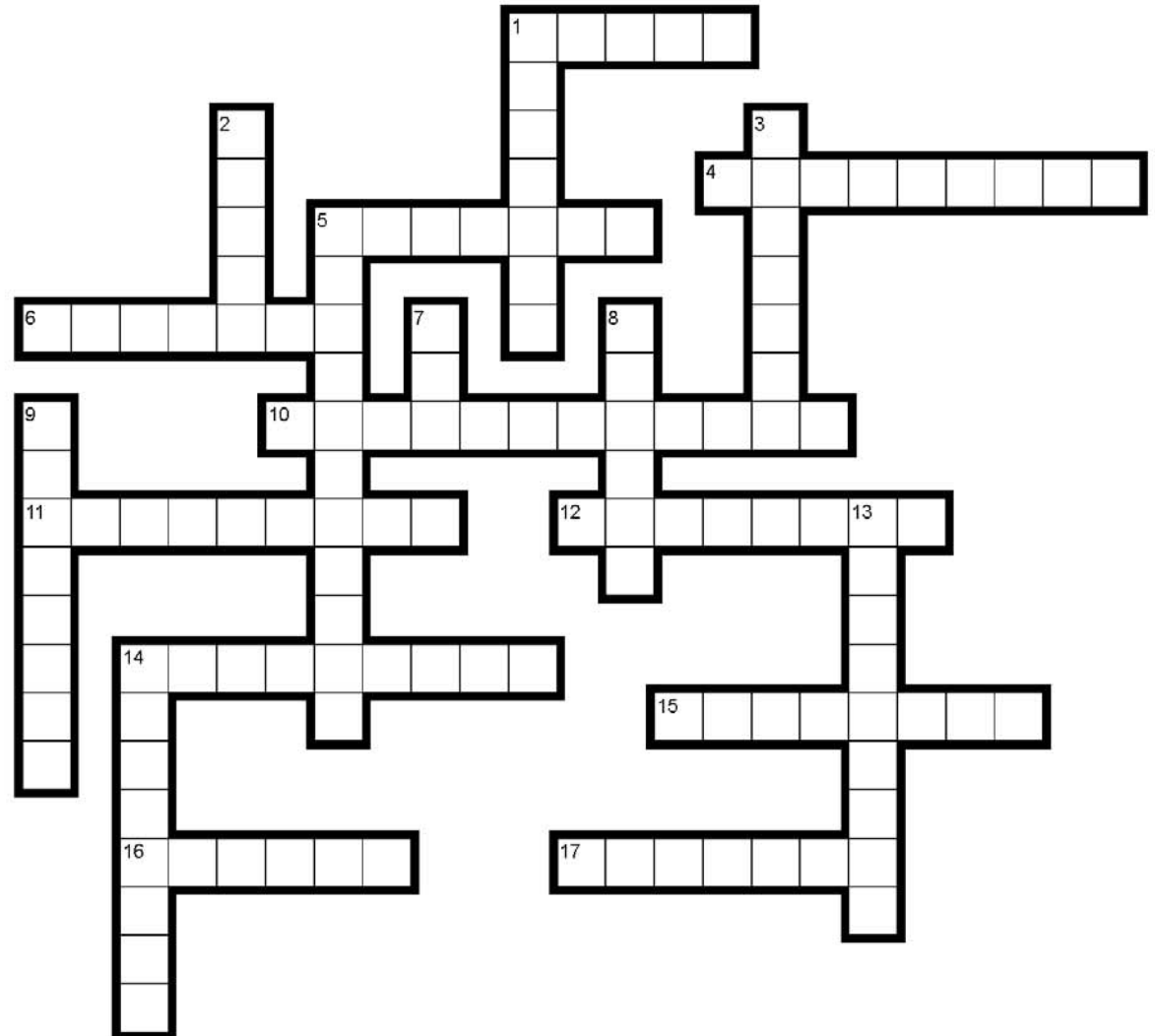
Wren Crossword

ACROSS

1. WHAT'S INSIDE FRUIT TO HELP THEM REPRODUCE (5)
4. THIS BIG CAT IS A REAL FLASHY DRESSER (9)
5. PUSH THE DOORBELL WITH TOO MUCH FORCE (6)
6. A PLACE WHERE ANIMALS AND PLANTS LIVE (7)
10. COWARDLY TOOL HITS A NAIL ON THE HEAD (12)
11. TIME GOES FAST FOR A MYTHICAL FIRE BREATHER (9)
12. HABITATS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER (8)
14. DRINK FROM A VERY CREAMY KIND OF FLOWER (9)
15. IT'S SEEDS SPIN LIKE HELICOPTERS WHEN THEY FALL FROM THIS TREE (8)
16. WHAT IS THE TALLEST AND THICKEST KIND OF GRASS (6)
17. FUN TO PLAY FROM THE HORSECHESNUT TREE (7)

DOWN

1. FROLIC IN THE CLOUDS (7)
2. A SIGN OF SUMMER THIS BIRD IS REALLY FAST (5)
3. BABY FROG FOUND IN YOUR POND (7)
5. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT, AS BIRDIES DO (11)
7. A WISE OLD BIRD (3)
8. GROWS BACK ON TREES EVERY YEAR (6)
9. THIS SPIKEY LITTLE FELLOW IS A BIT OF A PIG (8)
13. OPEN A ? AS QUIET AS A... (9)
14. FEELING GLUM IN THE CHURCH TOWER (8)



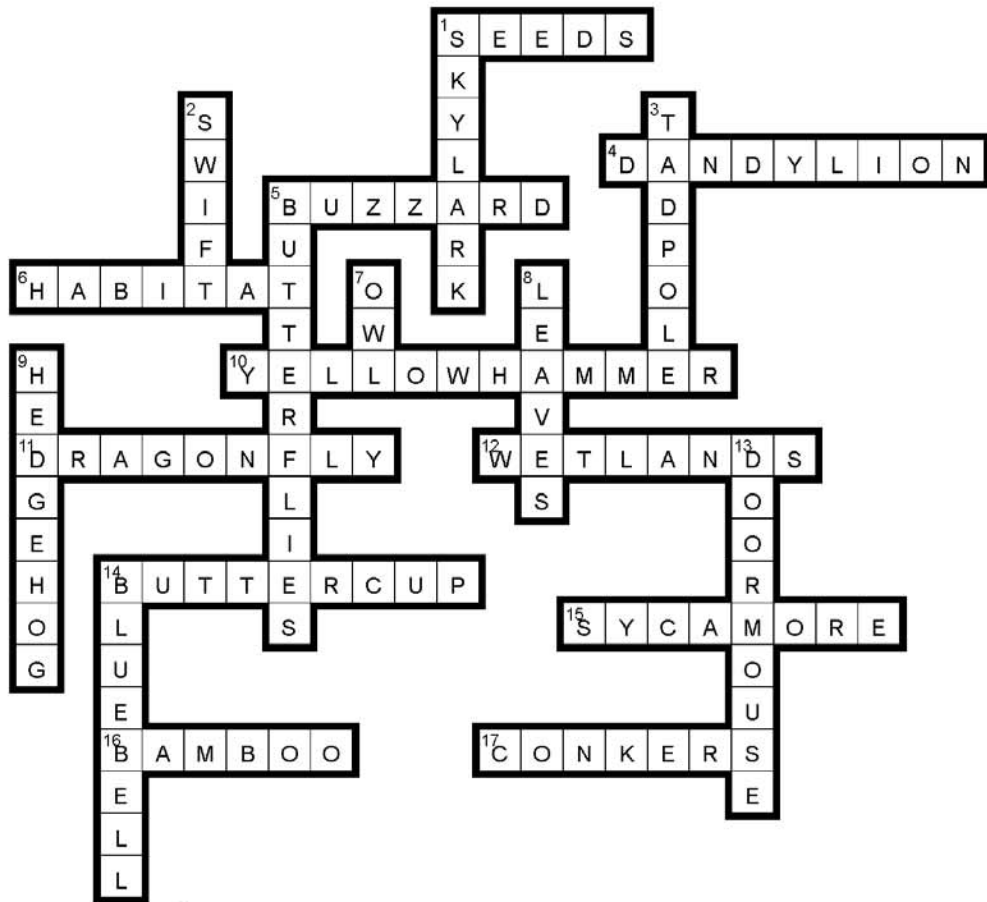
find the word

CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS?

EVERGREEN. CATERPILLAR. TOAD.
GREENBELT. WILLOW. SWAN. IGRET.
HEDGEHOG. BUG. STONE. TREE. SWIFT.
HONEYBEE. NEWT. BAT. SWIFT. YEW. ASH.
LEAFY.

H	A	C	B	K	T	S	T	I	O	T	P	M	E
O	Q	M	A	O	R	G	R	W	T	Z	M	H	B
N	E	W	T	K	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N
E	A	W	P	J	E	E	E	T	E	F	B	D	T
Y	O	O	D	I	L	E	S	S	B	B	U	G	Z
B	O	I	G	R	E	T	O	Y	D	H	T	E	K
E	E	F	R	S	A	B	B	L	A	A	S	H	V
E	O	T	E	S	F	Q	J	G	R	O	B	O	H
D	M	Q	E	H	Y	O	S	W	A	N	Q	G	K
S	T	O	N	E	P	D	J	I	L	B	L	D	S
U	O	E	B	B	Z	D	U	L	E	D	Y	E	W
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	S	E	I
A	D	R	L	B	G	X	B	O	K	L	W	K	F
A	B	I	T	O	E	S	S	W	I	F	T	M	T

teaser answers



H	A	C	B	K	T	S	T	I	O	T	P	M	E
O	Q	M	A	O	R	G	R	W	T	Z	M	H	B
N	E	W	T	K	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N
E	A	W	P	J	E	E	E	T	E	F	B	D	T
Y	O	O	D	I	L	E	S	S	B	B	U	G	Z
B	O	I	G	R	E	T	O	Y	D	H	T	E	K
E	E	F	R	S	A	B	B	L	A	A	S	H	V
E	O	T	E	S	F	Q	J	G	R	O	B	O	H
D	M	Q	E	H	Y	O	S	W	A	N	Q	G	K
S	T	O	N	E	P	D	J	I	L	B	L	D	S
U	O	E	B	B	Z	D	U	L	E	D	Y	E	W
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	S	E	I
A	D	R	L	B	G	X	B	O	K	L	W	K	F
A	B	I	T	O	E	S	S	W	I	F	T	M	T

events

useful links



June 2013

Thursday June 20th - Midsummer Flowers. Meet at 7.30 pm by the Aldersbrook Riding Stables. Leader: Tricia Moxey.

tharris@windmillbooks.co.uk

July 2013

Saturday 13th July, 2pm - 10pm Music in Wanstead Park. See the amazing 50' whale! Meet the Valkyrie Vikings and Bosun Barnacle! Climb Spider Mountain! - and, in the evening, dance to jazz funk with Bad Ass Brass!

gilljames@btinternet.com

Sunday July 21st - Nature Walk in Wanstead Park. Meet at 10 am by the tea hut.

tharris@windmillbooks.co.uk

August 2013

Thursday 15th, 9pm - Bat Walk. Details tbc.

tharris@windmillbooks.co.uk

Sept 2013

Monday 23rd.

A presentation on Mosses and Ferns by Tricia Moxey. Details tbc

Oct 2013

Sunday 20th

Fungi Foray in Bush Wood, led by Tricia Moxey. Meet outside Friends Meeting House, Bush Road, at 10:30.

Got any links to go on this page ? Get in touch editor@wrengroup.org.uk

RSPB North East London Group
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon/>

The Wildlife Trust <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>

BBC Nature <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/>

City of London - Epping Forest
<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/Pages/default.aspx>

British Naturalist Association
<http://www.bna-naturalists.org/>

Wanstead Wildlife <http://www.wansteadwildlife.org.uk/>

Friends of Wanstead Parklands
<http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk/>

East London Nature <http://www.eln.yorkshirefog.co.uk/>

RSPB <http://www.rspb.org.uk/england/>

UHK Safari <http://www.uksafari.com/index.htm>

The British Deer Society <http://www.bds.org.uk/index.html>

Wanstead Birding <http://wansteadbirding.blogspot.co.uk/>

Newham Story <http://www.newhamstory.com/>

Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society
<http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/>

and finally

Having nothing better to do our Chair, Tim Harris, decided to count how many different people contribute to the Wren newsletter – he counted 17. Now this is truly remarkable that so many people feel that they want to get involved. What is more remarkable is that we have so much expertise in our group, ranging from an extremely wide knowledge of local wildlife to an intricate understanding of fauna and fungi. The team have also tried to embrace the Group's wider interests and expertise by including the conservation of the Wren area - including its history and built environment.

This has really taken off and many people have produced articles on these topics.

In this edition of the newsletter we have also been very privileged to have possibly our oldest contributor – sharing her memories of her mother living in the local area she has grown up in, together with our youngest member - giving her excellent account of the group's waterworks walk.

Everyone has something to say – If you think you have a story in you or you have taken a photograph you are particularly proud of why not get in touch. Contact me, Tony Morrison, @ editor@wrengroup.org.uk



now & then

Were you right ?

Answer
Junction of Aldersbrook and Wanstead Park Avenue
around 1937 and how it looks today.