



Fleet Pond Society Spring Newsletter



Patron: Chris Packham
Charity No: 290637

Issue 169
Spring 2020

THANK YOU CO-OP, CHURCH CROOKHAM

Chairman, Jim Storey, accompanied by Colin Gray and Terry Dunford, was delighted to receive a donation of £750 from the Church Crookham Southern Co-op branch.

Branch Manager Donna Cotterill said: 'I have loved Fleet Pond for many years, and regularly visit the Reserve. I appreciate the conservation work that the Society achieves to preserve this wonderful community asset. Here at the Co-op we are delighted to support that work.'

£500 was raised through a cake sale, in which all the cakes were baked by the hard working staff, and through collecting pots at the tills. £250 was donated through the Community Campaign, from the sale of plastic bags.

Jim said: 'We are thrilled that Donna and her team continue to support FPS and thank them very much. We also thank all the customers who supported their fund raising efforts. This money will buy a new toolshed which we desperately need.'

Ed's note: This photograph was taken before social distancing rules were introduced.



SPRING NEWSLETTER IN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLY, FOR NOW

Due to the ongoing situation, this Newsletter is currently only available in electronic form. Once things are back to normal, we will arrange for hard copies to be printed and distributed.

If you would prefer to continue receiving the Newsletter electronically, please contact our Membership Secretary, Edith, at membership@fleetpond.org.uk

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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of Fleet Pond Society.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

A FEW WORDS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We feel it is important to publicise the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline as widely as we can. If you know anyone who can benefit then please pass the number on. Their request will come through to a local, trustworthy person.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - HELPING HART RESIDENTS MOST IN NEED

A helpline is now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support, to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents during the coronavirus outbreak.

THE CORONAVIRUS HAMPSHIRE HELPLINE IS 0333 370 4000

The helpline is available 7 days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with practical issues such as essential food/household supplies or collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

Hart residents who contact the helpline will be directed to appropriate support within the local community, including services and support being provided through the newly formed Hart Response Hub. The Hub is jointly managed by Hart District Council and Hart Voluntary Action, working in partnership with established voluntary groups such as Fleet & Hart Lions, Churches Together in Fleet and Hart Foodbank, and local volunteers.

If you wish to volunteer your help (opportunities include shopping, picking up prescriptions, but also offering a daily reassuring call to those who need it), please go to: www.fleetlions.org.uk/_contact.html “

In times like these it reinforces how lucky we all are to have Fleet Pond nearby. It has been heartening to see people making use of our lovely greenspace and generally being quite meticulous about social distancing. Well done to everyone, it is only with this careful behaviour at all our greenspaces that we can keep the pressure off the District Council having to place restrictions on its use. It's not easy sometimes, particularly if your daily exercise is in a new form to you and especially for people with young families. Cyclists please do take care, these are footpaths you are using round the Pond - maybe it's time you got a bell!

Whilst all our volunteering conservation work has

had to stop we are still in regular contact with the Rangers, so please contact them on countryside@hart.gov.uk or us if you think there is an issue we need to know about. They're still out and about but obviously are more limited in their resources.

I'm afraid you'll have to look at the main Hart District Council social media accounts for information as the HDC senior management have decided to switch off the Countryside Services ones.

Jim Storey—Chairman

Chairman's AGM Report for 2019/2020



TREASURY MATTERS

Income in the past year was significantly higher, but we spent a lot less mainly because we didn't buy another new tractor! The total in our bank accounts is currently £27,600.

Income from subscriptions was similar to the previous year, but we've had a massive increase in donations. Sadly, some of those donations are because of good friends who are no longer with us. In particular I'd like to mention the passing of Terry Simms (the first FPS Chairman), Patsie Welford and Anne Benson. We also received donations in happier circumstances, from the Christmas lights on the Denton's house in Fitzroy Road, as well as through substantial support from Waitrose and our local branches of the Co-op.

I'd like to highlight a few items of expenditure. As there are no more ordinary benches to sponsor, we agreed with the relatives that some of the money we received from them, in memory of their loved ones, was used to dedicate two of the picnic benches in memoriam. The donated

money then went straight into the Rangers' budget to spend on the Pond.

We spent a bit more on our website last year, firstly because it fell over quite badly and secondly we took the opportunity to improve its functionality. We have found a local, very reasonably priced guy who now does this work for us.

A different type of spend was the organising of an aquatic plants survey. This was completed by the very experienced Dr Giles Groome; it was well over-due since we finished all the dredging and restoration actions. Essentially, we wanted to find out what is now living in the Pond since so much has been lost since the 1980s. We were very pleased to see there has been a significant improvement. On the conservation side of things, we sent two of our volunteers on formal training to use brush-cutters and the Rangers' shredder. The latter has allowed us to dispose of cut material more usefully.

OTHER MATTERS

I'd now like to move onto what we, in the Pond Society, and others have been doing over the past year.

Firstly, people matters: The Society now has a new Secretary and a new Treasurer. Sadly we've also recently lost David Pottinger from the Committee as he's moving away from the area. David was always a lateral thinking committee member, and he developed our blog that became so informative to everyone.

Senior Ranger Steve Lyons has moved on to other things within HDC, he has been replaced by Liz Vango-Smith.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our biggest opportunity is the Pond Wildlife Day, and this year it will be held on Saturday 16th May (*Ed's note: We currently have no update on this event from HDC. As soon as we hear anything we will let you know.*). We had a lovely day for it last year and made many new friends who came pond dipping or visited our gazebo activities and tractor.

We attended Hart Voluntary Action's 'Get Involved' event in the shopping centre last Autumn. Taking the opportunity to share creepy crawlies with the younger shoppers and Pond leaflets with their Mums and Dads.

In late 2019 we had a concerted effort to recruit new members using our website, social media and shopping centre notice-boards. We had good success. Colin and Terry also get out in the public eye doing walks and talks for groups and companies. They recently set a new audience

record of 270 at the U3A's monthly meeting in the Harlington. A new aspect has been led by committee member Wolfgang Hamann, who has been working hard to increase the engagement of the younger generation with nature.

GREEN GRID

Hart DC are planning major works in a project they are calling the 'Green Grid'. A big piece of work around Fleet Pond is part of the project and we have been involved in their early discussions. It's still at an early stage and Hart have to work out the details and timings. They plan to let us know what they are proposing in due course.

HARTLAND PARK

There has been quite a major S106 financial contribution from the developers of Hartland Village. Some of this money is to be spent enhancing Fleet Pond and mitigating the impact of their development. We are likely to see some improvements to the main car park, but mainly to the access track from the Cove Road and also the path that runs along the Pond by the railway station car park. There will be lots of smaller jobs done over the next couple of years too.

CONSERVATION WORK

Now to the nitty gritty, the conservation work that has always been one of our main *raison d'être*. We have agreed a detailed plan with the Ranger team of what needs to be done, and what priority it should be given. We had some great conservation help from local companies. Arcadis and NTT have worked on the Dry Heath and Barclaycard did three sessions on the NE Marsh. Fleet Mortgages sent a group on several occasions to work with the LoSW team.

Our own conservation volunteers, both the Friday 'Last of the Summer Wine' team and the '2nd Sunday of the month' group, have done a lot of different jobs in the last year. In fact they've put in around 1700 hours of work. There has been a concentrated effort on the NE Marsh, as it had not been fully tackled for a long time. Trees had grown to full height along the marsh/reedbed edge to the detriment of the flora and reeds. Ranger Sam's expertise with the chainsaw, Mandy's dedication to the herbicide treatment and a tremendous amount of hard manual labour by our volunteers has greatly improved the condition of the NE Marsh. Our newly qualified chipper team has turned a vast quantity of felled tree material into useful chippings for use on the footpaths. It's been a season of excellent work that has had the added benefit of massively improving views of the Pond from the eastern side. It's all been really opened up.

The members of the Island Management Team have continued their sterling work restoring the islands created by the restoration project. We bought a decent electric motor for their boat so they can get around more efficiently and with bigger loads in the towed punt. The team clocked up an impressive 250 hrs on Mondays over the last three months. The islands adjacent to Boathouse Corner have been largely cleared of invasive willow and alder scrub and now they've moved to the islands next to the Chestnut Grove reedbed. They transplanted a large chunk of bogbean in 2019 and it looks to have taken well and will create conditions conducive to colonisation by reeds.

Finally I'd like to thank all the committee for their hard work and support over the last year, all our volunteers for their amazing efforts and everyone who is a member of FPS.

Jim Storey, AGM, February 2020

ONE FOR THE ARCHIVE

This photo was kindly shown to us recently by members of Fleet Morris when we were all at the Volunteer Event held at Fleet Library. We hadn't seen it before, so a copy has gone into the archive. Thank you.



If you have any bygone photos of Fleet Pond, please contact us using the details on the back page of this issue.

FPS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Committee member, John Sutton, of Clearwater Photography has made some excellent videos showing the work we do at Fleet Pond. You can find them on the Fleet Pond Society channel on YouTube. Just search Fleet Pond Society in YouTube.

THANK YOU RACHEL



We were delighted to welcome Rachel Jones back to our AGM. Rachel was previously the Countryside Ranger for Fleet Pond. This time, however, she was giving a talk on Horsell Common, where she is the Senior Ranger.

Rachel's talk was extremely interesting ranging from how the site came about, through ongoing conservation work, to its relationship with 'The War of the Worlds'.

The Last of the Summer Wine team has been over to the site at Horsell twice to work on conservation tasks with Rachel. Extremely enjoyable occasions they were too. (pictured below)



Thank you very much for an extremely interesting and entertaining talk, Rachel.

If you would like to find out more about Horsell Common, and Rachel's work, please visit the website: www.horsellcommon.org.uk or look Horsell Common up on Facebook.

DON'T WORRY, IT'S A NATURAL PROCESS!

As water temperatures began to rise in late March and early April, visitors to Fleet Pond may have witnessed a perfectly natural process that many wrongly believe is linked to pollution.

Small clumps or mats of unpleasant looking material can be seen floating at the water surface during still conditions (*photo 1 below*). These mats have nothing to do with sewage, but everything to do with an increase in microbial activity.

Gases are formed as a result of the metabolic processes of microbes and photosynthesis by algae (*photo 2 below*). These gases lift clumps of fine sediment and detritus from the lake bed causing them to float to the water surface.

The material contains a wide range of organisms including bacteria, protozoans, and rotifers. Some of the most beautiful and numerous constituents are diatoms - single celled algae with cells walls made of silica often in intricate patterns (*photo 3 below*).

The floating mats are dispersed when the water surface is disturbed by wind or waterfowl. The communities within it remaining in the water column or settling back on the bed of the lake.



Photo 1 - mats floating on surface



Photo 2 - filamentous algae from Fleet Pond

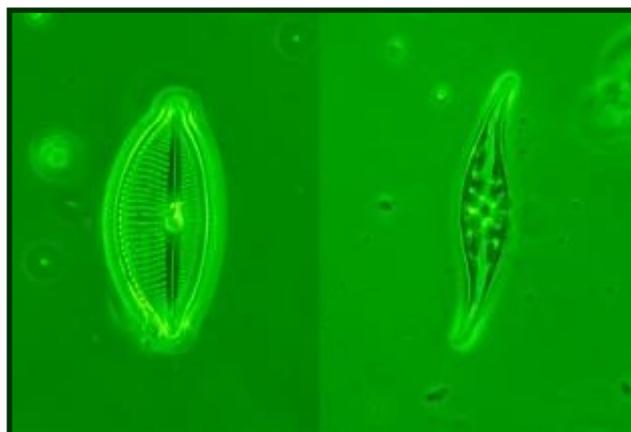


Photo 3 - examples of diatoms from Fleet Pond

John Sutton, Vice Chairman

RESERVE MATTERS

What an extraordinary change has been inflicted on the lives of everyone by the severe impact of the coronavirus. Day by day yet more restrictions have had to be imposed to try to reduce to a minimum the speed of the spread of this virus across the country.

It was business as usual in January and February. The planned scrub clearance and bonfire on Fugelmere Marsh for 9th February was rained off to be postponed to March. We had a useful day in Fleet Library with a stand at their Community Day, on 15th February, attracting some welcome new members for the Society. (*Geoff pictured at the stall*)



Terry and I gave a talk on Fleet Pond to the Fleet U3A group on 19th February which was well received by an audience of over 200. They showed a great deal of interest in our work for the Reserve. Unfortunately I was not at my best; I was still a bit shaken and bruised after carelessly tripping over a kerb the previous day. Fortunately Terry saved the day with his part of the talk on the history and volunteering.

I attended the Green Grid workshop on 30th February with FPS Vice Chairman John Sutton. It was encouraging to see how many people were in attendance; Hart District Councillors and officers, Fleet Town Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors and several community interest groups from a wide range of activities all contributed.

On 7th March Wolfgang Hamann and I took a small troop of Cubs on an Education Initiative tour towards their Natural Activity Badge. This was mainly featuring trees and birds as it was a bit too early in the season for flowering plants. They all seemed to enjoy the tour and another for a much larger group was planned for May. This will now not happen until Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

The scrub clearance and bonfire on Fugelmere Marsh on 8th March successfully dispersed a lot of material and improved the marsh habitat by removing invasive trees. The Monday Island

Management team worked on removing scrub from the islands, finishing the season on the islands off Boathouse Corner. The material was shipped to Boathouse Corner for chipping at a Friday task.



Our Friday and Monday volunteers will continue to do regular litter picking around the footpaths. With many people now at home more are using the Pond for leisure. Litter could be more often left in their wake.

Mid-March saw the start of coronavirus restrictions and this soon escalated. The Last of the Summer Wine team continued to meet for a while, ensuring that they kept within social distancing guidelines. Their last task was to clear all the dead bracken and leaves from the bluebell area at Sandhills, (*pictured right*) and chipping a lot of cut material at Boathouse Corner.



Now all volunteer activity has ceased and most of us are self-isolating. We miss the camaraderie, Terry's 'officer class' coffee and the Twix bars. On 27th March we all agreed to sit down wherever we were, have a cup of coffee and a chocolate bar at 11.00 am, the traditional time for our LoSW coffee break, and remember the fun we have had and hopefully will have again soon.*

We hope all our members, active or not, will soon return to the fun they have enjoyed with friends and relatives before we had to lock ourselves away.

Colin Gray MBE

**Ed's note: LoSW team member Geoff has now organised our Friday 11am coffee breaks into a Zoom chat meeting – great fun and interesting to see the variety of snacks being enjoyed, some stick with Twix, but others have definitely branched out.*

STORMS CIARA & DENNIS CAUSE NATIONAL DEVASTATION

I've often heard reference to the term 'a once in a hundred years storm'. February 2020 gave lie to that saying when Storm Ciara hit us on 9th February, closely followed by Storm Dennis six days later on the 15th.

The only time I can previously remember what I would call a major catastrophe in the inland area of southern England (which is normally well protected) was when the hurricane hit us in 1987. On that occasion, over 200 trees at Fleet Pond were felled by winds that exceeded 75 mph.

Storms are defined as winds of 64-75 mph, not quite as bad as a hurricane which produces winds of over 75 mph. The worst part of storms Ciara and Dennis was their tremendous gusts which tore down brick pillars on one side of our garden on the 9th February with a repeat performance on the other side on the 15th! I have not witnessed such intense rainfall to accompany the wind since Barbara and I were on our honeymoon in Jamaica.

We thought we were badly affected with our fence problems, but this was a minor event compared with the major flooding problems in so many parts of the UK. The repercussions will be felt by those affected by flooding long after our brick pillars have been rebuilt and the fencing panels re-erected.

The UK had just under a week to prepare for the devastation, as the storms were spotted with the help of the Met Office's Cray XC40 supercomputer. It was installed in 2016 and can perform 14,000 trillion calculations per second. It is capable of accepting 215 billion weather observations from all over the world every day. The Met. Office is due to have a new supercomputer shortly, with the Government investing £1.2 billion in the project. This will increase the computing capacity six fold, giving the ability for better local forecasts.

Peter Martin

DID YOU KNOW.....that the new computer could consume 30 to 40 megawatts, enough to power 30,000 homes annually?

We were lucky that we lost very few trees during the storms, but the water levels in the Reserve were very high, as these photographs show.

Photo 1—bridge over the Brookly Stream

Photo 2— Sandy Bay— island has disappeared

Photo 3— Boat jetty at Kenilworth Road



LATE WINTER & EARLY SPRING BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

In these extraordinary COVID-19 times our wildlife and birds provide much needed solace, and a welcome distraction from the current predicament we find ourselves in. For those fortunate enough to live within walking distance of Fleet Pond never has its value meant more. As spring progresses and the weather improves, the Reserve's full vibrancy of life and colour will, hopefully, provide a ray of optimism for the tough months ahead.

This winter will go down as one of the mildest in recent memory, with temperatures 2°C above average in both January and February. Whilst there were plenty of wet and windy Atlantic depressions to contend with (storms Ciara and Dennis) there were comparatively few frosts. March ended dry with a persistent cold north and northeast wind. As for the birds, January and February were characterised by the usual winter lull before March welcomed a pick-up of migrants and our first summer visitors, right on time.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Winter wildfowl numbers were again disappointing, with **Teal** being at an all-time low; a winter high count of only six in January while **Gadwall** topped out at four. Likewise, **Shoveler** were present throughout, with maximum counts of four on February 10th and 21st, but encouragingly a pair was still present at the end of March. Diving ducks were represented by **Tufted Duck** with numbers slowly building to a flock of 12 by mid-March and two male **Pochard** put in an appearance on February 7th. **Great Crested Grebes** were also in lower numbers this winter, with maximum counts of eight in January, six in February and ten by the end of March, the latter count no doubt supplemented by migrants. In contrast, **Snipe** were present in good numbers with a peak count of 77 on January 8th when a single **Jack Snipe**, (*illustrated below*) now a scarce winter visitor, was located at Fugelmere Marsh and up to four **Water Rail** were present into March.



Winter roost counts included peaks of 250 **Jackdaws** on January 21st and February 5th, reducing to 80 by the end of March and a high count of 235 **Magpies** on January 21st. Reassuringly, wintering **Siskin** numbers rebounded from the low levels recorded in November and December with a flock of 175 observed in Alder trees at the Brookly Stream corner on January 8th, reducing to just 25 by March 4th. Slightly unseasonal was a male **Blackcap** (*illustrated below*) observed in the northeast corner of the Reserve on February 23rd. Probably a visitor from nearby gardens,



Blackcap are becoming increasingly common in winter in Southern England, favouring suburban gardens. This trend is believed to be a response to climate change as more Blackcaps winter further north of their historic wintering range.

MARCH

By mid-March, spring migration was underway announced by a newly arrived **Chiffchaff** in full song on March 14th, always the first harbinger of Spring to us birders. This was followed by others in the subsequent days. The first **Sand Martins** (three) appeared on March 17th, increasing to eight on March 18th, but few were reported thereafter as the winds turned more northeasterly. In March, observed flyover of winter migrants heading mostly east or northeast over the Reserve, included total counts of 130 **Stock Doves**, 180 **Starlings**, 46 **Fieldfares**, 27 **Redwing** and 115 **Chaffinches** as well as a **Raven** (March 9th) and a **Peregrine Falcon** (March 26th).

March's highlight was an excellent passage of gulls passing through the Reserve, particularly in the last two weeks of the month. Things kicked off with a pair of **Mediterranean Gulls** on March 7th, followed by 3 adult **Little Gulls** present on March 19th. **Black-headed Gull** numbers grew significantly as the month progressed, with 800 present on evening of March 27th, probably a combination of migrants and returning breeding birds. Further sightings of **Mediterranean Gulls**

(illustrated below) continued with an adult on March 24th, 26th and 28th as well as **Common Gulls**, with three on March 27th, one on March 28th and 12 on March 29th. Late afternoon on March 30th saw an unprecedented passage of gulls, with conservative counts of 1,000 **Black-headed**



Gulls, 135 **Common Gulls** and 32 **Mediterranean Gulls**. Most of the gulls dropped into the Pond to wash and preen before leaving northeast that evening, but at least 500 **Black-headed Gulls** and two **Mediterranean Gulls** roosted. The next morning revealed much reduced numbers but counts of 15 **Common Gulls** and four adult **Mediterranean Gulls** were still notable.

Overshadowed by the gull action, the last few days of March also saw a migrant male **Brambling** singing in the Brookly Stream corner on March 31th (the first record of 2020), as well as a singing **Firecrest** (Brookly Wood) and a **Cetti's Warbler** (Station Corner), the latter present since March 9th. The reappearance of singing **Firecrest** and **Cetti's Warbler** (both protected Schedule One Species) suggests that last summer's breeding territories will not be one-off events - fingers crossed!

Finally, news on our early breeders reveals there are five or six active Grey Heron nests (down



from seven in 2019), while a pair of **Egyptian Geese** (illustrated above) was seen with an early brood of three small young on March 30th. The latter do not have a good record of surviving at Fleet Pond, but we shall see. Good birding and stay well!

William Legge

Contributing Observers: Evelyn Auld, Dave Buckler, John Clark, Drew Lyness, Sarah Slings and Graham Stephenson.

TREK VIEW—VIRTUAL WALKS ROUND FLEET POND

Fleet Pond (Lions View)



If you are self-isolating and missing the wonderful local greenspaces, this could be for you.

Visit the Trek View website to go on virtual tours of Fleet Pond and other local sites in North East Hampshire.

We are delighted that David Greenwood and his team have included the Pond in their listed sites.

<https://www.trekview.org/case-studies/2019/gb/fleet-pond/>



Fleet Pond Society New Members

A very warm welcome to:

CAROLINE CHASEY, ANNA & SANDY STRIBLEY, DAVID & EMILY ROBERTS, HOLLY MEADOWS, ELIZABETH GLEAVE, SYDNEY WELDON, KATE & JOE EDWARDS, JANE LANGLEY, ROWENNA & PETER DUNKERLEY, ANTHONY HADDAD, ADRIAN & JULIE VAN KLAVEREN

BIRD WATCHING DURING LOCKDOWN

One thing many people have at the moment is time at home. If you have a garden you may have been spending a lot more time watching the birds. Their life has carried on as normal and there has been plenty to watch!



Our Patron, Chris Packham, is running a Facebook group from his home: 'Self-Isolating Bird Club'. These are Chris' words of introduction: "Welcome to The Self Isolating Bird Club 🐦"

In these uncertain times, birdwatching & reconnecting with nature can be a real escape for those self-isolating. We want this channel to be a safe space to share sightings and engage with each other during [#COVID19](#).

Post your 📷 & 🗣️ here! I'll be live streaming every day (give or take) for the next few weeks with challenges and top things to look out for local to you. You'll find the videos pinned to the top of this group when I go live."

JOIN BTO'S GARDEN BIRDWATCH FOR FREE

By watching the wildlife outside your window, you can contribute to our understanding of Britain's birds by being part of this citizen science project.

British Trust for Ornithology's Garden BirdWatch is normally run as a membership, with an annual fee of £17, and would usually include a mailout of a book and quarterly magazine. However, BTO is currently offering everyone free access to Garden BirdWatch during the COVID-19 lockdown.



BTO is unable to mail out their book, welcome pack or magazines. But the free offer does include access to their online recording system and regular e-newsletter with information on recording and identifying garden wildlife. The free membership is valid for one year.

<https://www.bto.org/.../projec.../gbw/join-gbw/free-gbw-lockdown>

Follow FPS on Twitter & Facebook

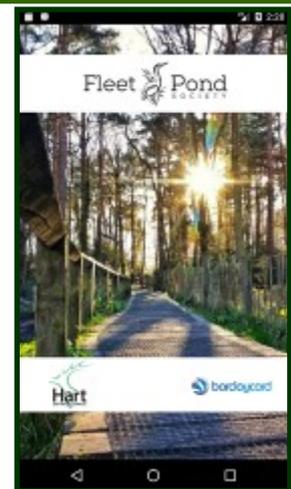
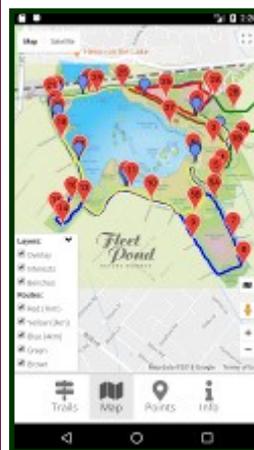
We love to hear people's news about the Pond and see the fantastic photos you take.

If you have an account with Twitter, be sure to tweet anything interesting you see or notice at the pond to [FleetPondSoc](#). You can include photos by using e.g. [TwitPic](#).

DON'T FORGET THE FREE FLEET POND APP



Available **FREE** for both Apple and Android devices. Just search for Fleet Pond App on your provider platform. Full of info on the various walks around the Pond as well as the sights you will see on the way.



SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO THE MEMBERS' GALLERY



We are delighted that members are sending us their favourite photographs taken in and around Fleet Pond nature reserve. The fabulous photo above was taken by Chris Marney in November 2019.

We will aim to update the photographs on a regular basis, at least monthly. Send your photographs to membersgallery@fleetpond.org.uk together with your name and a short caption to accompany the photograph, including the date. We look forward to seeing more of your photographs and sharing the beauty of Fleet Pond with others.

Check out the gallery on our website, along with the Gallery rules at www.fleetpond.org.uk.

RANGER'S ROUNDUP

Ranger Sam has given an update on the Wood Lane Heath boardwalk.

Walkers who use the Guildford Road entrance to the Reserve will have seen that the boardwalk has been removed. Do not worry, this site is a work in progress.

When the contractors removed the boardwalk the path was extremely muddy. It had to be given time to dry out before remedial work could begin to create a long lasting path. Subsequently, the Coronavirus shutdown meant that the contractors are not allowed on site to complete the work.

The pathway can be used, but please be aware that during periods of rain, it will become quite muddy. Contractors will return to the path, once government guidelines permit them to do so.

VOLUNTEERING AT FLEET POND

All volunteering has had to be put on hold, in the current situation. However, when the government restrictions are lifted, and



Hart Countryside Services opens up volunteering groups again, we will post information on our website and social media platforms to let you know.

We look forward to welcoming all our volunteers back safely in the future. In the meantime, we hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

IF YOU ARE READING THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE NOT A MEMBER, THEN PLEASE JOIN US.

**If you love Fleet Pond,
then join the
FLEET POND SOCIETY**

It only costs £10 a year.

Your membership will support the work of our
volunteer groups and help us conserve this
beautiful site for the community.

A quarterly newsletter will keep you in touch
with all that is happening at the Pond.

www.fleetpond.org.uk
membership@fleetpond.org.uk

Contacts for Fleet Pond Society



Chairman: Jim Storey
email: chairman@fleetpond.org.uk

Secretary: Frances Bonnington
email: secretary@fleetpond.org.uk

For membership enquiries only:

Membership Secretary Edith Evans
email: membership@fleetpond.org.uk

For Blog related enquires: Michelle Salter email: bloginfo@fleetpond.org.uk

Please email newsletter articles to: Cathy Holden at editor@fleetpond.org.uk
The Deadline for articles for the Summer Newsletter is 26 July 2020

Photograph credits:

Co-op group, Reserve Matters, Last of the Summer Wine at Horsall Common and Storms Ciaira & Dennis –Cathy Holden

Bird illustrations—RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/
Jim Storey, Rachel Jones (AGM), Don't worry, it's a natural process—John Sutton
Heron—Chris Marney
Volunteering—Colin Gray

Fleet Pond Society Office Bearers 2020

<i>President</i>	Peter Martin	<i>Chairman</i> Jim Storey	<i>Vice Chairman</i> John Sutton
<i>Secretary</i>	Frances Bonnington	<i>Treasurer</i> Katharine Higgins	<i>Manager, Projects</i> Terry Austin
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Edith Evans	<i>Publicity Officer & Newsletter Editor</i>	Cathy Holden

Committee Members Colin Gray MBE, Nick Keeley, Geoff Dee, Michelle Salter, Mandy Saxby, Carol Dunford, Wolfgang Hamann

Volunteer Tasks Co-ordinator for Fleet Pond Society: Colin Gray MBE, email volunteers@fleetpond.org.uk
Task Leader: Hart Countryside Service Tel: 01252 623443;
email: countryside@hart.gov.uk **Please register with the Rangers if you wish to join a task.**

Webmaster Carol Dunford

Hart District Council Representatives: Councillor Sharyn Wheale, Councillor Jonathan Wright

Fleet Town Council Representatives: Councillor Peter Wildsmith and Councillor Graham Chenery
Volunteer Observer for Hampshire County Council: Councillor Steve Forster

Hart District Council Contacts: Sam Kerr – Fleet Pond Ranger, Liz Vango-Smith, Senior Ranger - Hart Countryside Rangers, email countryside@hart.gov.uk Tel: 01252 623443. Adam Green - Ecology & Countryside Manager, Tel: 01252 622122.