

ANNUAL REPORT - DAWLEY HAMLETS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR)

We have been delighted to return to many of our normal activities following periods of lockdown. Work continues on the LNR and we're pleased to see developments ongoing and planned to the small pool off the Ironbridge Way and Furnace Pools and also look forward to the installation of a bench on The Mount by the Phoenix Fields. Thanks also to the Telford Angling Association for their recent work clearing Castle Pool and The Dandy.

We now have a new ecologist looking after the site and with the management plan, hope to start working party days to get to work improving our area. One point we are exploring is reptile surveys- look out for felt pieces across the LNR which will be used as 'refuge' for local wildlife. Telford and Wrekin are also working on new signage across the nature reserve.

Using Borough Councillor's Pride money, six benches have been bought and will soon be installed to make a Bench Walk, from the car park, up past Dandy Pool and around Castle Pool. The Bench Walk will allow people with mobility problems and mothers and toddlers to have easier access to this popular part of the Nature Reserve.

Events in 2021 have including a successful 'Adventures in Nature' summer event where we saw around 300 local residents take part in activities such as woodcraft, bushcraft and a treasure trail. Our winter event was bigger and better with fairy houses and lights galore. Members of the Friends Group made an Easter Egg and Easter Bunny trail around the pools and bridges which were visited by many families over the Easter Weekend. We also saw many of our young neighbours take part in our Great British Spring Clean litter pick last Spring.

We have some exciting events on the horizon this Spring and Summer. We will have our first pond dipping event led by our very own volunteer ecologist Dr John Wilkinson; we have had to postpone this due to low levels of water and Great Crested Newts laying their eggs in the area we intended to use. This has been made possible with a grant from Idverde for the equipment. We also received a grant from Veolia for our events of 2021. We can continue with our annual family summer event, thanks to a grant from Telford and Wrekin Council, which this year will be to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on Saturday 16th July. As part of this celebration, a new tree will be planted to be part of the Queen's Green Canopy.