

Present: Peter Roseveare (Chair), Dave Clark, Harry Rutherford, Sigrid Collins, Jeff Doodson, Sue Cope, Steven Robinson, Emily Montague, Glynis Williams, Charles Newman

Apologies; Sam Taylor, Angela Wilkes

Minutes of Meeting 29.8.23: Agreed as accurate

Matters Arising:

Greendale: The developments are currently in abeyance. Chris Rowse will communicate any change in the situation. While the paths and parkland itself are owned by Southwark council the ownership of the adjoining fields is still not known for certain. Land Registry search was unhelpful which may mean the land ownership predates land registry records.

Swifts: There was further discussion around the proposal outlined in the minutes of the last meeting to promote the installation of more swift boxes on houses and other buildings in Dulwich. Unfortunately as yet no contact has been made with John Welton to ask his advice on practicalities of the actual installation. Glynis left him a further voicemail during the meeting. It was agreed that Peter would put an item in the e-newsletter asking readers to express interest in having a Swift box. We discussed optimal timing and way of reminding Southwark Planning Department that inclusion of Swift boxes should now be a routine inclusion in new build criteria for planning agreement. Steven will proceed with this via Jon Best's replacement (which may be the same post or be incorporated into other roles). Glynis asked that Peter also highlighted in the newsletter that anyone having house renovations might consider having a Swift box installed or retrofitted by their builders. SR will find out who installed the JAGS and Heber Road Swift boxes. PR asked that SR draw up a concrete plan for the process of promoting Swift boxes. We talked of aiming for fifty installations initially with a longer term goal of two hundred.

Fungus walk: The fungus walk organised by Jeremy Prescott and led by Daniel Greenwood was well attended. Different forms of fungi fruiting bodies were seen. The most distinctive fungus seen was Magpie Inkcap which Daniel said he had not seen locally before. Concerns about encouraging foraging in the park were unfounded as quantities of fungi are small and the majority are poisonous.

Reports:

Chair: PR reported that the Dulwich Society Transport Committee has been rebranded as Environment Committee with focus on promoting greening and biodiversity. Peter will invite the Chair of that group Laurie Johnston to our next meeting.

PR is meeting with Chairs of the Tree and Garden committees to discuss guided walks for the next year. This meeting proposed wildflower, bat and fungi walks.

PR's next magazine article will discuss mimicry and include a photograph of a Hornet Moth.

Dulwich and Sydenham Woods: (from Sam Taylor in absentia)

The new project "Reuniting Sydenham and Dulwich Wood" is being managed by Daniel Greenwood. (more information on LWT site wildlondon.org.uk). Three surveys have been commissioned as part of the development phase. A fungi survey is ongoing. A Bat survey undertaken by ALyne Ecology. In Sydenham Hill Wood five species were recorded with the site being of regional importance for Noctules. In Dulwich Wood six species were

recorded with the site being of regional importance for Serotines. (The five species present in both Woods were Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine, Myotis. The additional species in Dulwich Wood is Daubenton's). The third survey was into invertebrates with special focus on Saproxylic Beetles by Richard Jones. RJ had previously surveyed the woods between 1997 and 2000. 177 species were identified in the recent survey.

It has been a particularly good year for Red Admiral Butterflies and for first time White Admirals were recorded in Sydenham Hill Woods.

Work has started on Cox's Walk footbridge with plan to complete by the beginning of the bird breeding season. The Bat and Entomology surveys are available to members of this group online.

The group discussed Sam's report. The nature of Saproxylic Insects was explained. These organisms are dependant on decaying wood and the Saproxylic Quality Index is in part a measure of age of ancient woodland. Most of these insects are minute if not microscopic. The two large Oaks are preserved in the Cox's walk work. This is funded by Southwark Council at significant expense.

The arrival of White Admirals in the locality will definitely be a topic for PR's next magazine article. The main food plant of White Admiral is Honeysuckle.

Birds (DC): DC not yet done the November count in Dulwich Park. Key sightings for him have been ten Siskins on Coxes Walk and Linnets in Burgess Park. It is anticipated that this year may be a good year for Waxwings. They particularly like berries beginning to rot. DC recommended viewing the 'Intoxicated Waxwing in Balham' YouTube video. The unusually late survival of a lot of berries this year will favour Waxwings. Thrush numbers are down and Mistle Thrushes in particular seem to be absent in Dulwich Park. The Blackbirds around at present are probably from Scandinavia. There is a particular decline in lower ground feeding and living species over the last fifteen years locally although nationally it is woodland species declining fastest. Tit species, Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and Parakeets in Dulwich Park are stable in number, while Jackdaw numbers have risen sharply.

Other Sightings: HR has seen a Tree Pipit in Dulwich Park as well as several sightings of Firecrest near the cafe and in the American Garden. Although he has not been using the moth trap in the wet weather he is anticipating winter moths' caterpillars providing important fodder for Tit species in the next year.

Dulwich Park: (EM):

Work on the lake will recommence in spring. Volunteers are clearing the American garden and the plan is to put down peat free ericaceous compost to rejuvenate the rhododendrons. Park friends and the Dulwich Society have objected to the application by Peckham Town Football Club to floodlight their pitch which backs onto the park. The main fear is this lighting will be to detriment of the bats that edge of the park. There is however currently no information on actual flight path that the bats use.

AOB

CN has become a Trustee of Nunhead Cemetery and in that capacity asked if there had been bird surveys there. DC advised that although there were regular surveys in the cemetery in the past these had not been happening for about six years. He suggested contacting Mandy Rudd at GiGL who may have past records. CN will be leading a bird walk in Nunhead Cemetery next year.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 January 2024