# *HPF Bulletin*
# *October 2020*

## Welcome to our Autumn Bulletin

Our Autumn crocus will have come and gone by the time you read this but there's still time to enjoy some of the glorious tree colours in the Park. Just a short bulletin from us this time because it's not long since we sent you our activities report for the year.

## Heritage Day at Highbury

A big thank you to all those who came along to support Heritage Day at Highbury on September 13th. It was a completely outdoor event this year to comply with social distancing. HPF held a stall and it was lovely to meet some of you and chat.

## Garden Restoration Project

Work is progressing on the plans to restore the original driveway at Highbury that runs from the Lodge Gate to the House and to widen and make accessible paths between the House, the viewing platform and Orchard. The pathways are being cleared by volunteers and we can already see changes as undergrowth is removed.

## Nature Notes

## Mast year for acorns?

Every 5-10 years oak trees in Britain produce enormous numbers of acorns, enough to litter the ground and provide food for squirrels, mice and jays. 2020 looks to be such a year. Strangely many beekeepers are reporting very dark honey this year. This may well be linked to the acorns as the Acorn Weevil *Curculio glandium* drilling into the young acorns results in exudation of sweet fluid. The honeybees take this back to the hive and make the rich, dark, caramel-flavoured honey.

The meadows have been quietly changing colour through the year, attracting many different insects and enchanting visiting humans and insects. EMP

These stunning images were all taken in Highbury Park by Andy Slater of Ecorecord. A more complete list of invertebrates spotted by Andy at Highbury can be viewed on our website.

Mother Shipton *Callistege mi* One of the few day-flying moths. The larvae feed on clover and grasses.

Furry Dronefly *Eristalis intricaria* A hoverfly that mimics a bumblebee. The larvae feed on decaying vegetation.

## Litter

Exciting news: We are launching a family friendly Litter Picking Trail in the park, together with our partners Highbury Orchard and Ecobirmingham. You can download a copy from our website. The aim is to help educate young people about the perils of litter. We hope to have an official launch soon and hope you will enjoy trying out some of the activities

A big thank you to Moseley Litterbusters and HPF member Jack Wilson, who organised a further litter pick for us on October 18th. 18 volunteers turned out to help and enjoyed a pleasant autumnal walk around Highbury as they litter picked

## Lost and found

We were contacted by an HPF member, distraught because her daughter had lost car keys in Highbury Park. "Where would they be taken if found?" she asked. Lost property is usually left at the Noticeboard in the car park or sometimes people leave a message with their contact details. A few days later she contacted us again to say how pleased she was that her daughter was reunited with her keys. Someone had left them hanging on the Noticeboard. We'd like to take some credit but the truth is that park users have invented these very creative ways of dealing with lost property!

**In our last bulletin Helen from "Unbind Your Wild" wrote an article for us on the importance of Highbury to her. Here she writes a further piece**

As I touched upon in my last piece, my deep love of this beautiful place, Highbury Park, was forged when on a 'Walk 'n' Wonder' event, run by Sherri Meese last Autumn. These wonderful walks bring a sense of peace to all who come along; they are a chance to reset in nature, practicing mindfulness techniques as we walk and wonder at all Highbury has to offer. The most recent was on 1st of August, as we celebrated Lammas, the first of the Celtic harvest celebrations. We began in the meadow, spending time with the Hawthorn on the edge, and ended under the huge Oak Tree in the centre of the park. Here, we noticed a Rowan was growing from the very trunk of the Oak, offering its late summer berries to be harvested by birds and other wildlife. This felt particularly poignant, as in the Celtic Zodiac, the Oak is the Birth Tree of Sherri and the Rowan is my own. It was a wonderful morning of reflection and calm, enabling us to connect with others safely whilst also forging community.

My email address is unbindyourwild@gmail.com or you can contact Sherri on Instagram @walk_n_wonder if you would like to know more.

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