

Panshanger Park

Panshanger Park Biodiversity Conference 2018

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An historic and protected landscape, rich in wildlife

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Introduction

- Welcome to the third Panshanger Park Biodiversity Conference
- Panshanger Park awarded with the Cooper Heyman Cup
- Health and safety:
 - Facilities
 - Emergency exits



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Update changes Park Team




Mike Fendock
Estates Manager




Enrique Moran Montero
Restoration Manager




Carl Jones
Park Manager




Jeff Watkins
Park Warden



Pat McClelland
Park Warden




Murray Brown
People and Wildlife Officer



Becky Shenton
Forest School Officer

Volunteers



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Management objectives 2018

- Protect, conserve and enhance the heritage setting of the Country Park and its biodiversity and wildlife habitats through active management and maintenance
- Progressive restoration of Panshanger Quarry: restoring northern silt lagoon, broadwater meadow and plant site area
- Upon completion of restoration, open up the former quarry access road as a new entrance into the park along with associated car parking and toilet facilities
- Open final areas of Country Park once the plant site is restored
- Hosting HMWT Festival of Wildlife and many more events

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Volunteers

- Work parties - 200 volunteer hours completed December 2017-March 2018
Tasks are based on the guidance of the Ecological Steering Group but also take into account heritage considerations
- Looking to develop 'lead volunteers' for:
 - people engagement/events
 - park duties
 - work parties
 - biodiversity monitoring
 - heritage preservation



photo by Simon Shabbling

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Events

- Encouraging other groups to use the park more widely:
 - Welwyn Beekeepers Association awareness session January 2018 and apiary being established
 - four horse riding events planned
- Regular Easy Access Oak Walks are now being independently led by David Neal
- Six visits already booked by local societies/interest groups in 2018
- Exchange with Woodland Trust volunteers from Heartwood Forest
- Five off-site talks already booked for 2018

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'Main' events

In February, the park hosted guided walks for new members of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

May	- Wildflowers and Ancient Trees Discovery
June	- Herts Wader Day
	- Wildlife of the River Mimram
July	- Dragons and Damsels
	- Festival of Wildlife
September	- Bats of Panshanger Park

There will also be a series of *ad hoc* events, especially during school holidays and when opportunities arise e.g. spawning toads, the arrival of the osprey

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Code of conduct

The People and Wildlife Officer is also working to produce a code of conduct for the park.



photo by Jen Gilbert

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