

## POND VOLUNTEER DAY SEPTEMBER 2017 - VIV BRADSHAW

A fantastic turnout meant we completed all the tasks we planned. 3 teams focussed on the pond with the 4th cutting and mowing the wildflower meadow.

Rachel Price from the Wildlife Trust provided waders to allow volunteers to get right into the pond to tackle the reedmace which had grown prolifically and do you think they had fun? Does the combination of water and mud equal fun!! I think so? Our City Council provided a truck and a willing employee to load the 4 tonnes of reedmace we harvested - and who then carted it off to an appropriate place.



The children who volunteered seemed to have lots of fun and were extremely helpful; they picked litter, raked the debris, helped load the truck and one even went into the water to help his dad. We asked them to write about their experience and below are their accounts.

I had a lot of fun cleaning up the pond. I really enjoyed getting muddy and talking to all the other people helping out, it was a good community effort. I also got a good workout, as I lifted up all the weeds and put them into a big pile but my arms hurt the next day!

It is nice to see the results of our work as I bike past the pond every morning, it looks so much cleaner and more open. I hope that the Moorhens appreciated our efforts and return again to nest next year.

Daniel Jeffcoate

I went to help my Nana Viv at the last volunteer pond day. Whilst I was there, I found 5 frogs, 3 newts, several slugs, 3 ladybirds (one that couldn't fly) and one snail. All my findings were on the slope next to the pond. The frogs were slimy and loved jumping out of my hands. 2 newts were juvenile and both of them were Smooth newts. The other newt was an adult Great Crested newt. Great Crested newts are quite rare and are protected. All of slugs were big black ones. One of ladybirds was yellow and very small. The other one was just a red one with 9 spots. The ladybird that couldn't fly had a broken wing. I liked helping at the pond, and finding all the animals was very enjoyable.

Elizabeth Bradshaw

On Sunday 24 September I went down to Botolph pond to help clean it out and do some gardening to the plants to make it a nicer place to go. In the time I was there I did some litter picking, raking weeds or dead plants and took a few pictures of my dad in the pond. When I was litter picking and raking I found several animals such as newts, slugs, snails, ladybirds and even a toad. When we had finished the pond looked a lot better than when we had started.

Charlotte Smith

## LONG ORTON WOODLAND WALK - SUE PIKE

Thank you to the volunteers who removed brambles and encroaching shrubbery from the footpath's edge. It was physically challenging work, but has cleared space for the new hawthorn, hazel and holly which will give colour through the year and food for our wildlife. Thanks also to Notcutts Garden Centre for providing a crab apple, and to Forest for Peterborough for shrubs and a pear. The 2 trees will blossom attractively in the spring and give fruit next autumn.

This season look for gorgeous autumn leaves, for the spindle trees with bright pink fruit, and 'Lords and Ladies' showing a splash of bright red fruit amongst the ground cover. This spring we will see the hundreds of snowdrops that we planted last year.

There is still much to do to keep the woodland healthy and thriving, and our next session will on **Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am**. Refreshments, as usual at 12 noon, provided by Oundle Road's Co-op.



**W**ork has started in Woodston Reach! As part of the Nene Park Trust's Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Moments with Trees', an area in Woodston Reach is being opened up to create a space for visitors to take a rest.

The work in November involved clearing undergrowth, removing dead trees and branches, raising canopies, planting saplings (including fruiting trees) and using logs creatively for seating.

Go and look to see what we have achieved so far - e-mail me your first reactions! To know more about the work, contact Hannah at [hannah.keeley@neneparktrust.org.uk](mailto:hannah.keeley@neneparktrust.org.uk) or 01733 308774. Alternatively, follow **@moments\_w\_trees** on Twitter for updates and tree tweets.

**GRASS:** Are you interested in the appearance of Botolph Green? Many are, and have expressed their opinions forcibly! Contact me for an update: [john@iodeastern.co.uk](mailto:john@iodeastern.co.uk)

# Festival on the Green

## 15, 16 & 17 June 2018