



What's New in Highgate Wood March 2010

First Signs of Spring?

Recent weather has left the wood in a rather muddy and damp state to say the least. Large pools of water are evident throughout the wood and the stream in the middle of the wood is once again running for the first time for a number of years. With conditions so wet and the nights so cold it's been hard looking for the first signs of spring. Normally at this time of year snowdrops are evident or nearly gone and daffodils are flowering. However this year a few snowdrops have dared to show their heads and the daffodils are struggling to emerge. Birds in the woods are also telling their own tales. The flock of Redwings which visit the woods during the coldest months of December and January are still here indicating that the weather further north is still not conducive for their migratory flight north. You can often see the flock on the field first thing in the morning and we've counted around a hundred birds, possibly our largest flock yet. Other birds are beginning to establish their territories with their glorious songs with the Song Thrush, Dunnocks, and Chaffinches all singing madly when the sun dares to shine. Also calling first thing in the morning are the Green Woodpeckers with their laughing call and the Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are beginning to drum, again both establishing their territories for the forthcoming spring. Owls have been heard at night, particularly the male owls that tend to use the 'hooting' call rather than the 'kwick' call favoured by the females, which could mean the females are sitting on eggs. Not only are the Keepers here looking forward to the spring, so is the wood.



Top Photo: Snow Drops and Daffodils

Bottom Photo: At least someone is having fun in our waterlogged wood

Winter Works in the Woods

We have been busy carrying out various works throughout the wood. There has been tree work along Muswell Hill Road, making safe various trees. Also during the first week of March we will be working with the Arboricultural Team from our sister site, Hampstead Heath, making safe some larger trees, again along Muswell Hill Road. Working with the 'Arb Team' enables us to learn new techniques and share good practice with the highly experienced members of the team. We have also been carrying out repairs to paths to try and minimise the pot holes and water collection points.



Diary of Events

Our Diary of Events has been available since the beginning of January either from our Information Hut or from our website, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/highgate.

On Saturday March 20th our Diary of Events kicks off with our '**Birds and their Song**' walk which starts at **9.00am**. So join the Keepers for a stroll through the woods and we will be identifying the various birds who will be singing busily establishing their breeding territories. The walk will last approximately one hour and we meet at the Information Hut which is located next to the Café in the centre of the wood. All guided walks are free and we are happy to accommodate all users in the woods from children to the more elderly.



Song Thrush

Photo by C Blaney

Opening and Closing Times for Highgate Wood

Opens 7.30am daily

Closes week commencing:

01/03/10 – 6.15pm 08/03/10 – 6.15pm

15/03/10 – 6.30pm 22/03/10 – 6.30pm



For further information contact
Highgate Wood Office
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