

WHJCC MEETING
23RD NOVEMBER 2022, 7PM
FRIENDS OF THE WELSH HARP SUBMISSION

Since the last meeting, Friends of the Welsh Harp has continued with its grassroots conservation and community activities.

Activities since the last WHJCC on 27th July 2022:

- 28th August 2022: Monthly conservation event. Approx. 30 attendees, equating to 60 hours of volunteering (£717 assuming London living wage). Volunteers removed litter from the Eastern Marsh, Northern Marsh, and Cool Oak Lane. Barnet Council removed collected items.
- 2nd October 2022: Conservation event in collaboration with two local synagogues. Approx. 40 attendees, equating to 80 hours of volunteering (£956 assuming London living wage). Volunteers removed litter from the Eastern Marsh, Northern Marsh, public bird hide, and Cool Oak Lane. Volunteers also started work at the 'rat feeding station', removing plastic mesh and preparing the compacted soil for future planting (more on this below).
- Secured pro bono creative time from advertising agency to produce following posters/flyers, now around the Welsh Harp:
 - Bird feeding posters
 - Bird feeding leaflets
 - Anti-littering posters

Current / future activities:

- Initiated crowdfunding for two conservation projects. Exceeded our £1,500 target and raised £1,632 from 59 supporters.
 - Project 1: Bee garden. Current 'rat feeding station' at Cool Oak Lane to be turned into a bee garden, consisting of bee bank, native planting, log piles, interpretation panels.
 - Half day in Jan (coppicing), two half days in March (planting and bee bank). **Can CRT or Barnet Council assist with coppicing in January?**
 - Project 2: Public bird hide. Community sourced art inspired by birds of the Welsh Harp to replace/supplement current graffiti on the inside and outside of the hide, bench to be painted, bin installed, gabion baskets outside, signage at Cool Oak Lane bridge to increase footfall etc
 - Local schools (Fryent Primary School, Hyde School, Claremont Academy, Parkfield Primary) have expressed an interest to participate in an eco-art competition
- Barnet Council has pledged to match £1,500 for the creation of a pond on Barnet land in Q3 2023
 - Friends of the Welsh Harp would like to reline existing Bomb Crater Pond and Little Pond - **would Brent Council enable this by matching our funding as Barnet Council have done?**
- Next conservation event planned: 27th November 2022 with focus on Brent side (Birchen Grove)
- Meeting scheduled with St George to discuss sponsorship of habitat creation at entrance to Welsh Harp from the A5, next to SilkBridge Retail Park