

## Friends of Stocker's Lake : Volunteer Hours and Work Carried out in 2019

(registered charity #1080501)

### 1 Work on the Reserve

Sunday Work Parties (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)	353 volunteer hours	No. of different members/local people involved	39
Weekday Work Parties (throughout the year)	40 volunteer hours		
Extra Weekday work re cattle fencing etc	181 volunteer hours		

#### Work included:

- 1.1 Clearing undergrowth and some trees to allow more sunlight on the south eastern banks of the lake
- 1.2 Creating poles for future hedge layering
- 1.3 Repairing/supporting old fences
- 1.4 Planting hedges by the new cattle fencing with 290 hedge plants to create all the hedges at Stocker's Lake. Thus bringing the number of hedgeplants planted by FoSL to 1300
- 1.5 Clearing up large amounts of rubbish left by the Great British Public
- 1.6 Earth moving to fill up ruts made by fence contractor's heavy vehicles and re-seeding damaged areas
- 1.7 Clearing ragwort from our cattle meadows – a continuation of a job we have been doing for many years
- 1.8 Planting wildflowers by a pond created earlier in the year by the Trust
- 1.9 Cutting back huge bramble patches, which grow throughout the reserve, to make space for tree planting in 2020.
- 1.10 Planting an oak tree in a special ceremony to mark the 150 year anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This is the first of 150 trees that will be planted on the reserve, thanks to a wonderful donation of £1500 by the North-West London (Middlesex) Hindu Jain community, some of whom are FoSL members.
- 1.11 Beginning the task of cutting back self-seeded willows to create a fourth cattle meadow. Thus encouraging wildflowers and enlarging our unimproved natural grassland – an increasingly rare natural habitat throughout England
- 1.12 Formed a 'Lookers Group' of a number of members to keep an eye on our cattle and to report any problems directly to our grazier
- 1.13 Formed a 'water vole' group which, working with the Trust, put 3 mink rafts on the reserve and monitored them regularly for signs of mink and water vole footprints. They were rewarded with indisputable evidence of water voles on The Margaret Partridge plot – the only part of the reserve owned by FoSL.

### 2 Recording, Research, Education Walks & Involvement with the General Public

297 volunteer hours, involving 30 members

- 2.1 Two wildfowl walks for General Public in Jan and Feb
- 2.2 Heron & Egret Watch in April, involving telescopes set up in two places on the banks of the lake, so that the public are able to see herons on the nests

- 2.3 Spring Chorus and Warbler Walk in May – a chance to see and hear some of the 7 species of warblers that breed on the lake.
- 2.4 Wildflower walk in June
- 2.5 Butterfly and Dragonfly walk in August
- 2.6 Butterfly recording. Weekly in April and September. Results filed nationally and with Herts County records. This work began in the 1990's. 5 people involved
- 2.7 Bat recording, involving one of our committee members
- 2.8 Annual bird report. 20 people involved (including committee member, Steve Carter, who compiled the report). Our annual bird report goes back to 1990, when FoSL was founded
- 2.9 Monitoring mink rafts for signs of water vole and mink
- 2.10 Introduction of cattle to our meadows, including supervision of and payment for erection of cattle fencing, field gates, kissing gates and water pumps
- 2.11 Further work on camera on Herons nests project, with the very helpful co-operation of Affinity Water
- 2.12 Recruitment Days. 3 days produced 40 paid up new members and £230. 17 members involved
- 2.13 'Cattle looking' to keep an eye on our cattle and report any problems to the grazier
- 2.14 Maintaining and updating an excellent website together with Facebook and Twitter.
- 2.15 Preparing, printing and posting Events posters in all our bird hides.

### 3 Administration

183 volunteer hours, involving 12 members

- 3.1 Financial management: subscriptions, donations, banking, book keeping, paying contractors, work party expenses, purchase of materials and equipment, insurance, relationships with bank, auditors, charity commission and fund raising bodies
- 3.2 4 Committee meetings, AGM, arranging speakers, briefing new committee members
- 3.3 3 Newsletters, writing, designing, printing, stuffing envelopes, posting and emailing
- 3.4 Dealings with Affinity Water, Three Rivers DC, BACAS, Harrow Waltonians and Groundwork South
- 3.5 2 regular planning and co-ordination meetings with H&M Wildlife Trust and ad hoc work on 5-year Plan
- 3.6 Printing and distribution of joining leaflets and events calendar
- 3.7 Writing, typing and printing of various reports, minutes of meetings and general correspondence

### 4 Costs directly concerned with practical work on the reserve

£

4.1	Payment to grazier, which includes cutting/collecting non-grazed grassland	1000
4.2	Nest camera project	2501
4.3	Hedge planting	517
4.4	Work van costs including repairs, tax, insurance and servicing (excl. fuel). After 20 years faithful service the van is showing its age and has become more expensive to run. It needs replacing. (Offers, anyone?)	3064
4.5	Cattle introduction, fencing, gates, water troughs etc	21,156
4.6	Other reserve costs	293
4.7	Work party insurance	284
	Total:	<u>28,815</u>

### 5 Other Costs

Newsletters, AGM, websites, PPS etc

1924

### 6 Total Volunteer Hours: 1054      Membership: 660