



February 2025

Clissold park biodiversity report

Two bat walks were arranged in the late autumn: on 24th September and 2nd October 2024. Both were very well attended. There are still a few bats living in the park that can be detected with a bat detector that can pick up their ultrasonic signals. We even managed to see a few bat, mostly around the bottom ponds.

A small group of CPUG volunteers put up 4 nest boxes in the bottom woods on 5th October to encourage small song birds to nest in the park. A further two robin's nest boxes were added on 25th November with the help of a very willing Duke of Edinburgh's Award student who also helped us clean up the dipping pond that was full of rubbish - including a discarded scooter. This quiet pond is an ideal habitat for amphibians and needs to be kept clear of rubbish.

A bird walk was arranged to coincide with the RSPB Big Bird Watch on 26th January. The weather was terrible, but we managed to see some interesting species including Gadwall, and Jay. Another bird walk is planned for late March when the weather should be a bit kinder.

The outflow of the New River has been blocked for months now, and this has resulted in the surface being covered in duck weed during the summer months and has led to flooding after heavy rain and icing over in severe weather. A letter has been sent to the park manager to enquire when the outflow problem will be resolved and this valuable habitat stabilized.

Trees constitute a major habitat for birds, squirrels and insects that live in the Park. On 10th February a group of CPUG volunteers conducted a survey of the trees affected by a recent programme of tree pruning and identified 61 trees that had been affected by pruning. This represents a major habitat loss to Clissold Park and a letter has been sent to the Hackney arboricultural officer, requesting a meeting to discuss the use of more conservative methods of tree management.

Richard Crawford
Biodiversity rep
10th Feb 2025.