



The countryside charity
London

Working for a greener city

Green London

Summer 2021, Issue 3



London Fields by Marcos Bevilacqua

Looking to visit a new park this summer?

On GoParksLondon we have mapped 4,000 of London's green and blue spaces on your doorstep just waiting to be explored.

GoParksLondon is a campaign to promote London's green spaces and the Friends groups who give their time to protect, enhance and promote the city's parks. These dedicated groups celebrate their park's heritage, help local authorities look after the site, fundraise for improvements, run events and activities or campaign for their protection.

On the GoParksLondon [website](#), each park has its own dedicated page with photos, facilities information, insightful information on wildlife and historical nuggets provided by the London Gardens Trust. There are also links to join a local friends' group. Nearly 250 of these detailed pages have been created, and new Friends groups register with the site every day.

Recent campaigning has brought GoParksLondon to the attention of borough councillors and the public, spreading the joys of discovering a new park and joining the local Friends groups.

An upcoming seminar series seeks to promote cooperation between councillors and local communities to help achieve common goals around health, social cohesion, biodiversity, and the environment.

Brent, Enfield, Haringey and Harrow councils already have positive relationships with Friends groups.

'Discover the Parks' walking and cycling routes have recently been launched to encourage people to explore their borough's parks on a fun day out. The GoParksLondon team has recently worked with active travel communities to devise the routes in Newham, Merton, Enfield and Camden, with Islington soon to follow. The routes can be found on the borough pages on the GoParksLondon website, where you can keep your eyes peeled for future routes in Brent, Bromley, Tower Hamlets and Sutton.

GoParksLondon aims to spread awareness and enjoyment of London's wonderful green spaces by promoting [#GreenSpace4All](#). Yet London has just half the green space needed for a population its size. That is why our [Ten New Parks](#) campaign is working with local communities to turn forgotten, undervalued sites into new parks. Please support our work by donating to our [Ten New Parks appeal](#) or joining your local Friends group.

**GOPARKS
LONDON***

A view from our new Campaigns Officer....

...and one of our new Trustees

Last month we welcomed our new Campaigns Officer John Sadler who is passionate about our work to protect green spaces.

John says: "I'm absolutely delighted to join CPRE London and really looking forward to working with staff and volunteers to save Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and other precious green spaces in Greater London. I'm particularly excited by the Ten New Parks Campaign and hope that the Mayor of London and local authorities will work with local groups to transform these spaces into beautiful new public parks.



One of my main objectives is to increase our network of volunteers so if you, or anyone you know, would like to get more involved in CPRE London's work just let me know!"

You can contact John at john@cprelondon.org.uk.

Sally Penrose was delighted to be elected as our new Honorary Secretary at our AGM in May:

Sally reflects: "Much of my career has been in health charities and lockdown really underlined for me the beneficial impact of access to nature on our wellbeing. I'm passionate about the need to protect and extend our precious green spaces and make better use of brownfield sites. I'm looking forward to helping CPRE London make our capital a healthier and more enjoyable place to live and work."



We also welcome Jon Burke, former Hackney Councillor, to our Board of Trustees who brings with him a wealth of political experience and policy knowledge.

Rural Rides with the Magpie Project

An enjoyable and educational day out in Epping Forest.

In June children and mums from the Magpie Project took part in the first Rural Rides to Epping Forest organised and run by CPRE London, and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Volunteers took a group of explorers to the Epping Forest to breath in the fresh air, learn about nature, listen to birds, and become acquainted with green spaces a little bit further than our doorstep. A picnic lunch, clay modelling and games to identify leaves, organised by our partners the Epping Forest Heritage Trust, kept our little adventurers busy. It was a wonderful day made special by our volunteers and all who attended. We're looking forward to our next outing in the summer.



London River's Week

London enjoys a wealth of rivers and waterways: the Thames and its tributaries, its historic docks and canal network, and many wonderful lakes and wetlands.

London's rivers and waterways are a vital part of the landscape of the capital, shaping the city over centuries, and more recently helping to sustain wildlife, and providing valuable opportunities for recreation.

Restoring the health and benefits of London's rivers for people and nature is at the heart of our vision for a greener London. That is why CPRE London is delighted to be involved in London Rivers Week this year which takes place from 23-30 October.

We look forward to working with Thames 21, the Environment Agency and others to celebrate London's rivers and waterways. Look out for information on events and activities being planned on our website - cprelondon.org.uk



Urban Tree Festival grows to new heights

Participants in this year's festival were treated to host of virtual walks, talks, self-guided trails, writing competitions, and much more.

From 15-22 May the Urban Tree Festival delivered 77 online live events, 22 activities, 29 blog posts, and as lockdown lifted, hosted several on the ground events. The festival brought together tree-enthusiasts from over 20 countries.

CPRE London curated a series of nine 'Tree Rings' webinars, which explored a range of current issues concerning urban hedgerows, access to nature, campaigning for trees and climate change. The webinars were amongst the most popular events of the festival and we're grateful to all the speakers who gave their time and insights.

Other festival highlights included, the 'Write About Trees' showcase of nature writing and the Festival 'Book Club' hosted by author Peter Fiennes. This year we organised more activities aimed at families and children, such as storytelling and an interactive tree-themed theatre session.

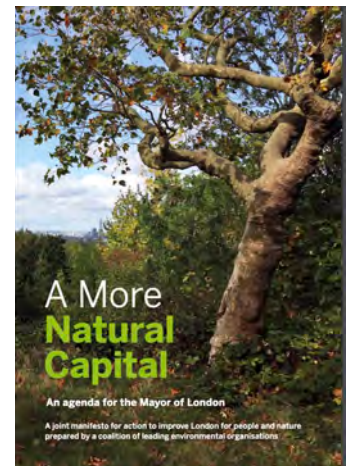
Neil Sinden, Director of CPRE London and Steering Group member, reflected: 'We were delighted that the Festival attracted so much enthusiasm once again with a diverse programme of events and activities. It was particularly pleasing to put on special events for children thanks to support from the Mayor of London and our other funders.'

We'd like to thank the organisations and contributors who helped make this year's festival the best yet. Plans for next year are already taking shape, but in the meantime, don't forget to visit urbantreefestival.org to sample the many activities that will remain online until next year.

A More Natural Capital

We welcome the new Mayor with our vision for a healthier and greener London.

In advance of the Mayoral and Assembly elections which took place in May, a group of leading environmental organisations, convened by CPRE London, produced a joint manifesto outlining ambitious programmes of action needed in London to reduce pollution and waste, improve health and wellbeing, secure nature's recovery, and tackle climate change.



In the run up to the elections we campaigned to persuade all the candidates to adopt our agenda including organising a Mayoral Environment Debate. The debate was chaired by TV presenter and environmentalist Julia Bradbury and attended by over 360 attendees!

The session started on an inspiring note, with the screening of a powerful film produced by Lisa Thomson on Camden Greenpeace. In the film, which you can watch [here](#), young Londoners set out their hopes of the next Mayor, including cleaner air, more green spaces and fewer cars on the roads.

The More Natural Capital coalition met recently to review the environmental commitments made by the newly elected Mayor, Sadiq Khan. To keep up the pressure on him to deliver we agreed to review the first 100 days of his second term. Look out for our assessment of the Mayor's performance in September.

STOP PRESS!

2021 Healthy Streets Scorecard

We are delighted to announce the recent publication of the third London Boroughs Healthy Streets Scorecard. CPRE London coordinates the Healthy Streets Scorecard Coalition (CPRE London, London Living Streets, Roadpeace, London Cycling Campaign, Sustrans London, Future Transport London, Possible, Wheels for Wellbeing). Find out how your borough scores at healthystreetsscorecard.london/



Help turn London from Grey to Green

It has never been more important to reclaim lifeless, underused grey spaces and transform them into revitalised green spaces for people and nature.

Following our formal [AGM business](#) in May, we hosted an engaging online discussion on From Grey to Green: on repurposing our streets to make better use of space previously used for roads and parking with some powerful presentations.

Ben Connor from the Greater London Authority shared initiatives from the Mayor's office that aim to maximise opportunities to make London a greener, fairer and more climate resilient city. The Mayor's Transport Strategy and Streetspace interventions encourage a modal shift to sustainable and active travel modes. Planned investments in projects like new pocket parks and green walking routes will level up access to urban green spaces.

Steven Edwards, from Living Streets, reflected on the growing consensus over the benefits of walking for health and the environment, and how to increase active journeys by addressing the challenges faced by different groups. The recent London Living Streets '[Central London Footways](#)' maps the capital's walking labyrinth building awareness and accessibility.

Creative use of grey spaces serves the public in multiple ways. Local campaigner and community activist, Sarah Berry, reflected on her creative, hands-on experience of greening a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in South London. Landscape architects, Makaela Gilchrist and Will Sandy, highlighted beautiful examples of 'guerrilla' urban greening making bleak sites beautiful, increasing biodiversity and citizen engagement.

The power of neighbourhood action was echoed by CPRE London's Head of Campaigns, Alice Roberts, who outlined how people can develop their own vision for changes to local streets and lobby local councillors to make them a reality.

Our [Parking Transformed](#) report shows eight ways your borough can redeploy space allocated to car parking to make London a better place. Encouraging local councils to take action to deliver community-led solutions can help turn London from #Grey2Green.



A new model of grassroots green infrastructure
by the Edible Bus Stop and Will Sandy Design

Thanks to our members, supporters and partners for helping us to make our city greener

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