

Small Blue project at Greenwood Park, Chiswell Green 2019

28 April

Groundwork is now underway in Greenwood Park near St Albans.

The aim is to create habitat for the rare Small Blue butterfly. Topsoil removal began on 26th April and work will continue through to the beginning of May. 60 tons of chalk will be deposited, creating an environment suitable for Kidney Vetch and other chalk loving plants to thrive.

Chiswell Green currently hosts the best colony of Small Blue in Hertfordshire and the new site will provide a much needed area for butterfly numbers to increase. The project is being undertaken by Hertfordshire and Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and St Stephen Parish Council.



30 April

The chalk was delivered to Greenwood Park for the new butterfly bank. BC staff members Phil Sterling and Sharon Hearle both visited to see the progress and provide advice. After lunch we visited the existing Small Blue colony nearby and were rewarded with the sight of the first one of the year in flight.





Phil Sterling, Mandy Floyd, Sharon Hearle

3 May

We've done it. All the groundwork for the Greenwood Park Butterfly Bank is now complete. Mandy Floyd planted the first few Kidney Vetch and Horseshoe Vetch seeds this afternoon. More seeding and planting is planned this spring and again in the autumn. Children at the nearby Killigrew School have volunteered to grow plants and then plant them on the bank.

A HMBC volunteer work party is being planned for the morning of Friday May 17th. Contact Malcolm Hull for more details.

Or come along to the public launch event on Sunday 26th May



31 May

30 people attended the public launch of our new Butterfly Bank in Greenwood Park St Albans designed to help a range of butterflies and moths including the rare Small Blue.

Planting with wildflower seeds and plants has been carried out by volunteers from Herts and Middx Butterfly Conservation and members of the local community in Chiswell Green and St Albans. Once grown, the wildflowers will help bring in the butterflies to enjoy this new site.

Thanks to St Stephen Parish Council who own the site and the Heritage Lottery Fund for the finance.



Clifford Mullett

Mandy Floyd Chris Newman



28 September

We planted 500 Kidney Vetch and 300 Birdsfoot Trefoil plug plants on the new bank. We also scattered the rest of the Kidney Vetch and Horseshoe Vetch seeds. There had been heavy rain during the week, so ground conditions were relatively soft, making it easier to dig into the chalk.

We noticed that a considerable number of the spring sown Kidney Vetch seeds had germinated, although most of the plants were still quite small. The Birds-foot Trefoil and Kidney Vetch plug plants from the spring and summer have been eaten by rabbits, but were regenerating from their root balls.

The bank looked very bare when we started, but beginning to look quite green by the time we finished. We have treated the plants we planted with “growler”, which is not a pesticide, but a substance designed to make the plants taste unappetising to rabbits. Mandy Floyd is also marshalling the local dog walking community to train their dogs to chase the rabbits away.

The next events to be planned will be unveiling the new display boards and probably more seeding and planting in the Spring. For more information contact Malcolm Hull malcolmhull@icloud.com



