

Friends of Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens



Spring Newsletter 2019

Nature at Fletcher Moss

This spring and summer will see a number of events celebrating nature and wildlife in Fletcher Moss Park. On the **28th of April** we will be hosting the '**City Nature Challenge**', jointly organised by the RSPB and Manchester City Council.



A Kestrel at Fletcher Moss

The idea of the challenge is that Manchester, along with other cities from around the world, will be recording as much of the wildlife in our area as we can. All members of the public (yes, that's you!) are encouraged to

come down to the park on that day and look for as much wildlife as possible—birds, bees, butterflies, insects, flowers. In the end the world's 'winning' cities will be the ones which have the the most observations, find the most species, and engage the most people.

If you would like to take part just turn up at Fletcher Moss Park between **10am and 2pm** on the **28th April**. Make sure you have the right clothing and footwear for the weather,

Also coming up is a '**Bioblitz**', again a process of recording a number of wildlife species in the park. That will take place on **Saturday 18th May**, starting at **10.30am** in Fletcher Moss. You can discover more about the various insects and other creatures that make their home in Fletcher Moss park. Experts will be on hand to help us explore the park and try and record as many species as possible. Drop in to this family friendly event to get involved in minibeast hunting, worm charming and more fun activities; there will also be guided walks throughout the day. The information we record will be used in the future to find out about how wildlife is doing at Fletcher Moss.

There is a phone app called 'iNaturalist' that a lot of people are using to record the information they collect. It is also very good at identifying species you might not be sure about. It connects you with a global community of people and scientists who are interested in recording what nature there is around us. It's definitely worth a try! The website is: <http://www.inaturalist.org>

Alan Hill

Spring is here

Now that Easter is approaching and we have hopefully seen the last of the winter, we can look forward to enjoying all there is to offer in Fletcher Moss Park and in Parsonage Gardens. We get lots of queries about the park through our website, quite a number from distant places, on the lines of: "I have heard a lot about your park - when is it open? What is the entrance fee? How do I get tickets?" I think some are surprised when we reply that it is open every day of the year from dawn to dusk, and that it is completely free.

Of course the reason that both areas are popular, is that they are so well looked after, and for that we have to thank our great band of volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the very high standards that have been set over recent years.



Snake's Head Fritillaries

So please come and look at the gardens, hopefully enjoy them, and then let us know what you think. Your opinions are important.

REMINDER

Subscriptions of £5 are now due - to Membership Secretary, 28 Victoria Avenue, Didsbury, M20 2RA; or to any officer.

Thankyou for your valuable support