

FRIENDS OF THE HERMITAGE OF BRAID & BLACKFORD HILL

WOODLAND & WETLAND PATCH PROJECT UPDATE – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2004

Our ambitious plans to improve the wildlife and amenity value of this previously neglected little corner of the Hermitage of Braid Local Nature Reserve continue apace. At its meeting on 12 November 2003, Pentland Local Development Committee decided to approve an award of £4638 to the Friends. This is the second such award from Pentland LDC following last year's award for work exclusively related to our Wetland Patch project.

This latest award will be used over the coming months across the reserve to improve and upgrade the surface and edging of the main footpath around Blackford Pond; erect a 4-way signpost next to the Scout Bridge in Blackford Glen; buy two high quality recycled plastic benches for the Wetland Patch and fund the development and first year's hosting of our new website.

Forthcoming developments at the Patch include putting up more bird boxes (can you spot the one that we put up recently?) to encourage appropriate local species e.g. treecreepers and blue tits to make the Patch their home. We also plan to make improvements to the pond area situated at the back of the Patch, including clearing leaf litter, cutting back surrounding vegetation and carrying out an amphibian survey with Lothian Amphibian & Reptile Group.

If you would like further information on the project or the Friends, please log on to our website at www.fohb.org.

Latest sightings – goldcrest, long tailed tits, treecreeper, blue and great tits, song thrush, wren, redwing, robin, wood pigeons, chaffinches, pair of bullfinches. Anything to add to this list? Tell us at patch@fohb.org.