



## ***RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY***

### **Coy Pond and Bournemouth Gardens Walk**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023  
 Weather: Overcast  
 Walk Leaders: Pat Holder and Jean Crawford  
 Attendees: 12

Our walk started at Coy Pond, now managed by BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) council, right on the Bournemouth and Poole border the majority of which is in Bournemouth. It was created in 1888 at the time the railway embankment was constructed behind it. Weeping willow and some alder trees dominate the banks. We walked through Coy Pond Gardens with its ornamental rockeries, Bourne Stream here is largely unmodified with vegetated banks and small meanders.

Walking onwards to reach Bournemouth Gardens also managed by BCP council. The Upper Gardens which have a more natural feel and planting, there are a number of little red bridges that cross the Bourne Stream and a lovely old folly or water tower which is now the home to bats, was built between 1883 and 1903. The idea was to have a water wheel and use it to pump water to an ornamental fountain in the middle of the stream. In 1992 the Upper Gardens were replanted to include meadow walks and seating areas. Information boards and fingerposts were put in to point the way to areas of interest and board walks were installed over the marshy areas.

The Central Gardens are formally planted and include a cafe, tennis courts, the War Memorial with beautiful rose borders, a rhododendron walk and heather beds. A pergola was added in 1990 to commemorate the centenary of the Borough of Bournemouth which stands over the bridge and leads you into Bournemouth Square. The Lower Gardens which starts the other side of the Square continues to the pier and sea but we did not walk this stretch. After refreshments we retraced our steps back to Coy Pond.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Others</b>
Herring Gull	Alder catkins	Grey Squirrel
Wood Pigeon	Red Dead-nettle	Turkeytail Fungus
Black-headed Gull	Daisy	
Dunnock	Common Field Speedwell	
Mallard	Herb Bennet	
Feral Pigeon	Primrose	
Moorhen	Snowdrops	
Magpie	London Plane tree red female flowers	
Robin	Snowberry	
Jay	Crocus	
Blue Tit		
Grey Wagtail		
Peregrine Falcon		
Nuthatch		
Long-tailed Tit		
Blackbird		



*Coy Pond and Bournemouth Gardens by Lyn Traves*