

# Autumn into Winter Nature on the Heath

Hampstead Heath and Kenwood managed by the City of London Corporation and English Heritage are central London's most nature-rich landscapes. Explore their meadow, woodland and wetland habitats and rich diversity of animals and plants.

## Winter Sprites

Goldcrests and Firecrests are our smallest British birds, busy now on the Heath in holly and yew.



Goldcrest

Photos: Ken Wong



Firecrest



## Trees and Storms

In 1987, a famous storm uprooted 460 trees on the Heath. It toppled this beech which then grew back from a fallen limb. Climate change will bring more stormy weather and trunk sensors are now used to predict the resilience of trees at risk.



Photo: David Humphries

## Saving our Wildlife

Wildcats at Golders Hill Park Zoo are part of a captive breeding programme to restore this threatened British species.



Wildcat

Photo: Megan White-Dore



Scarlet Elf Cup

Photo: Liz Andrew

## Its Fungus Time!

This Scarlet Elf Cup appears on dead sticks and branches in wet winter woodlands, one of about 600 kinds of fungi on the Heath.

## Wild but Managed



Photo: Conrad Bickmore



Gorse

Photo: Adrian Brooker

Autumn and Winter are busy times for managing Heath habitats. Here volunteers help to cut back gorse which needs regeneration to stay productive.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee

Gorse will begin to flower even in late winter snows, attracting insects like the Buff-Tailed Bumblebee whose British populations now raise broods all through the winter.



Song Thrush

Photo: Ken Capsey

## Harbinger of Spring

Song Thrushes are characterful birds which burst into song across the Heath in midwinter, ushering in the Spring's dawn chorus.

Be nature aware



**PROTECT WILDLIFE**  
Dogs on leads or well-controlled



**HEATH FUNGI**  
Enjoy but don't pick!



**KEEP OFF PONDS**  
Don't throw wood on ice



**NO FIRES or BBQS**  
Help prevent wildfires



**SAVE POND LIFE**  
Swim dogs only in designated ponds



**HIGH WINDS**  
Check if Heath is closed for walking



The Heath & Hampstead Society

Est. 1897

Registered Charity

In collaboration with:



Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity



LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Scan to learn more about biodiversity conservation and how you can get involved.

