# River Crane Sanctuary

Diwali, The Festival of Light, runs from Wednesday 18th October to Sunday 22nd October this year. It is a time for celebration of Light over Darkness, Truth over Falsehood and above all a Love for all forms of Life. What a great time to celebrate the changing colours along the River Crane Sanctuary walk from Kneller Gardens to the Shot Tower. Here are some photos taken last Sunday to show the autumn leaves and the fungi along the route and if you want to see more and hear the amazing sound of the wind in the trees and the bird song from the bushes then click on the link for our website and see the Flickr album. [www.e-voice.org.uk/rcs/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/rcs/)

The Shot Tower is open on Sunday afternoons and is worth a visit and make sure you collect the fantastic free Crane Valley Visitors’ Guide and Booklet which has maps and Wildlife Identification Sheets all compiled by the Crane Valley Partnership. Check times and events with the London Wildlife Trust. [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

River Crane Sanctuary supporters are recording local sightings of wildlife along the sanctuary route and sending them to GIGL. [www.gigl.org.uk/recording-spreadsheet/](http://www.gigl.org.uk/recording-spreadsheet/)

This information is stored on a national database and helps with protecting habitats for our wildlife; some of which are now on the Red List which means they are endangered globally.eg. Red Admiral Butterflies; Song thrush, Stag Beetles, Bats and Hedgehogs. Have you seen any this year? If you live nearby or walk this route you can record birds, butterflies and other species that visit your garden or you see on your walk. This small act of kindness will help save our wild spaces for future generations by highlighting the diversity along our River Crane and the connectivity that is needed to sustain free movement along its course. It is easy to do and all you need to note is What, Where, When and Who and send it by e mail or on the recording sheet above.

Sir David Attenborough is Patron of the London Wildlife Trust and says on its literature that:

“Having wild places nearby helps people go on their own journeys of discovery”

We recently returned from the Lake District and its beauty was astounding and only matched by the generosity of spirit shown by Beatrix Potter who ahead of her time valued the open spaces and wildlife and saved over four thousand acres and forty farms from development for future generations to enjoy and have respite from the stresses of life and pollution.

Thank goodness for the local groups who are protecting our few remaining wild spaces for all.

Sammi Macqueen (Photos: Iain Macqueen)