

Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC), before 2015 named Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust (BHCCAT), was founded in 2000. FoBHC works with, among others, Manchester City Council (MCC), landowner of Boggart Hole Clough (BHC) & most of Bailey's Wood, & with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) local authorities' department.

FoBHC submission, re **Revivifying the Lake**, to MCC's 20.10.2018 Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec 'Stakeholder Meeting' held at North City Library, Harpurhey, North Manchester.



These photos taken at the Lakeside illustrate how trees overhanging or fallen into the Lake, while remaining attached to the Island, are essential providing Great Crested Grebes, Coots & Moorhens with a habitat of branches in the water on which they build their floating nests; they also provide Herons with perches to stand on. Left & middle photos taken 26.4.2008 by Paul McCrystal show nesting Coots. Right photo taken 14.5.2017 by Steve Lestrangle shows perching Herons. MCC/GMEU threaten to remove these trees - about which, more below.

- FoBHC proposals set out in our Submission to previous, 16.6.2018, 'Stakeholder Meeting' (which can be seen on our website) remain valid except for *item 1: Community proposals for revitalizing the Lake & Island Waterbirds Sanctuary* which, after this summer's outbreak of avian botulism, is superseded by **10 provisional community proposals presented in *Revivifying the Lake* (FoBHC, 17.10.2018) doc - please see attached**; this doc can also be seen on our website.
  - At the previous, 16.6.2018, 'Stakeholder Meeting' MCC gave FoBHC permission to publish their reports / 'Action Points' re these meetings on our website.
  - In MCC's *Action Points* re 16.6.2018 *Stakeholder Meeting* (which can be seen on our website), MCC blithely describes their February 2018 arboricultural operation around the Island edge, removing sections of the waterbirds habitat, as "a success"! As we pointed out in emails to MCC urging them to stop this operation, by destroying Coots' nests whilst they were being built, the operation was in fact illegal - see emails 13, 15, 16 on pages 19 & 20 of *Revivifying the Lake* doc.
  - Further to walk-around-the-Lake meeting, Friday 22.6.2018 (arranged at above 16.6.2018 meeting): Jon Atkin (MCC North Area Parks Manager), Paul Rosenbloom (MCC Charlestown & Blackley Neighbourhood Engagement and Delivery Officer), Karen Galston, Peter Milner.

We hope the MCC officers were persuaded that further removal of more trees overhanging or fallen into the Lake, whilst remaining attached to the Island, will be injurious to the welfare of the waterbirds - see above.

Jon talked about possibly spraying the Lake with a chemical to reflect / deflect sunlight to cool the water to reduce algae. This seems dubious solution likely to cause multiple deleterious side-effects. Cooling the Lake could surely be achieved more effectively by planting a sweep of shading White Willows & by deepening the Lake - see *Revivifying the Lake* doc.

Recently MCC has had a penchant for hi-tec solutions, promoted by private companies, to the Lake's ecological problems - aeration pumps, plastic floating islands, & now chemicals are under consideration. Adding chemicals to this hi-tec mix, we suggest, would only exacerbate / compound the Lake's problems. We prefer, where possible, more natural solutions e.g. reedbeds rather than floating islands, planting White Willows rather than spraying chemicals. Combined with warmer weather, the floating islands precipitated thick widespread algae / eutrophication, in which avian botulism bacteria grows, & we again propose their removal - see *Revivifying the Lake* doc.