



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Coy Pond and Bournemouth Gardens Walk

Date: 20th January 2026
 Weather: Overcast
 Walk Leader: Pat Holder
 Attendees: 5

Our walk started at Coy Pond, Coy Pond Road, Poole. BCP council owns the land and is responsible for capital works and trees etc; and the Friends of Coy Pond manage and maintain the area. Its situated 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 using an outfall from the Bourne Stream, the pond then flows back into the stream via a conduit under the road and the meadow beyond. Coy Pond is an abbreviation of Decoy Pond and was initially intended for wildfowl shooting. Weeping willow and some alder trees dominate the banks along with donated plants. We walked through Coy Pond Gardens with its ornamental rockeries and Bourne Stream running through, its largely unmodified with vegetated banks and small meanders.

Walking onwards we reached Bournemouth Gardens owned and managed by BCP council. The Upper Gardens 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, built between 1883 and 1903. In 1992 the Upper Gardens were replanted to include meadow walks and seating areas. Information boards and finger posts 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.

Birds	Flowering Plants	Fungi
Moorhen	Alder Catkins	Turkeytail
Mallard	Hazel Catkins	Southern Bracket
Black-headed Gull	Pussy Willow/Goat Willow	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust
Wood Pigeon	Mistletoe	Hairy Curtain Crust
Feral Pigeon	Stinking Iris {seed pods}	
Magpie	Winter Heliotrope	Lichens
Buzzard	Butchers Broom	Fluffy Dust Lichen
Grey Wagtail	Daisy	
Siskin	Snowdrop	Mammals
Robin	Three-cornered Leek	Grey Squirrel
Great Tit	Snowberry {berries}	
Jay	Crocus	
Carrion Crow		
Blackbird		
Blue Tit		
Herring Gull		



Winter Heliotrope at Coy Pond by Lyn Traves



Jay at Coy Pond by Andy Enefer