

Slow worms relocated from housing development site



Nattergal ecologists Lottie Trewick, left, and Rachel Blount, centre, and freelance field surveyor from Urban Edge Environmental Consulting, Ben Nelumbu, release the slow worms at Harold's Park Wildland

A GROUP of slow worms have been relocated from the redevelopment of Harold Wood Hospital to a new habitat as part of a biodiversity initiative.

The animals were moved from the Bellway housing

development, where 96 new homes are being constructed, to a newly created habitat at Harold's Park Wildland in Waltham Abbey, Essex.

This initiative is part of a collaboration between

Bellway and nature restoration company Nattergal, and was overseen by Urban Edge Environmental Consulting.

Neil Beamsley, Bellway Group head of biodiversity, said: "Our partnership

with Nattergal demonstrates that a strategic and collaborative approach can have a significant impact on enhancing biodiversity.

"The relocation of slow worms from the Harold

Wood Hospital site goes beyond new regulations to deliver 10 per cent biodiversity net gain (BNG)."

The development on the former hospital site, called The Comptons, will feature 22 'affordable' homes.

Primary school secures improved Ofsted rating

‘Each child held Hogarth up as a shining light’

By HOLLY BRENCHEr
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A PRIMARY school is celebrating after Ofsted found it had made improvements.

Hogarth Primary School in Brentwood was rated as 'requires improvement' two years ago, but has now been judged 'good' in all areas by Ofsted, which found 'outstanding' personal development.

The turnaround follows its takeover by the Discovery Educational Trust and the appointment of headteacher Rob Watson.

Mr Watson said: "Our children were absolutely incredible. "We did not get to choose the children the inspectors spoke to, but each child held Hogarth up as a shining light.

"They were absolutely a credit to the school."

Ofsted described the school as a place where "pupils thrive".

Inspectors found children to be "happy and safe", achieving



Joy for Hogarth Primary after its Ofsted report

highly, and well-prepared for the next stage of their education.

Improvements found since the last inspection include a new staff team, higher SATs results, better attendance, and increased applications.

School trips and sports events have also been reintroduced for all pupils.

Ofsted praised the "interesting and well-considered curriculum" and noted that teachers "identify pupils' additional needs

promptly and accurately".

The report also highlighted a "safe and nurturing environment" in early years, with calm lessons and rare disruption.

Mr Watson credited the wider school community for the rapid progress. He said: "None of this could have happened without our families and our staff.

"Two years ago, 80 per cent of our staff were brand new – each and every one of them have stepped up to the plate."

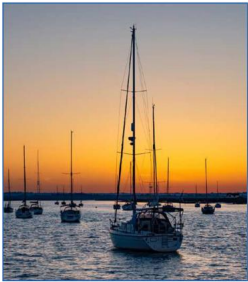
Plans are already in place to address areas for further improvement, the school said.

Ofsted found that sometimes activities "do not allow pupils to deepen their understanding" and pupils "do not secure the important knowledge as well as they could".

Mr Watson said the school "will definitely not rest on our laurels".

"We will be further embedding our new curriculum and making writing our next focus."

Special photo exhibition at windmill



A photo by Alf Ellis, chair of Upminster Camera Club

A SPECIAL photography exhibition is set to take place inside Upminster's historic windmill.

The display, by Upminster Camera Club, is to celebrate its 70th anniversary and will run on Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14.

The club was formed in 1955 by Frank Bardwick, who owned a photography shop, and Peter, the manager of Ken Rose's chemist in Station Road.

The club started in the chemist shop and then moved to various locations, including Hornchurch Library for 40 years, before settling in Cranham Community Centre in 2007.

Now with about 45 members, the club holds weekly meetings, monthly competitions, and various outings.

Last month, the club held a private exhibition for members of other clubs, with attendees travelling from as far as Norwich, Cambridge, and Ipswich.

The public will have the opportunity to see the new exhibition, which features more than 200 images, for free at Upminster's Grade II* listed windmill.

The exhibition, showcasing the work of club members, offers a glimpse into the world of photography over the decades.

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