



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 1

23 November 2016

What we've been doing

22 November 2016

Bill Hill

Leader: Richard Elsbury

BFC ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

11 of us braved the rain to plant bulbs of wild cyclamen, snowdrop, lesser celandine, wild daffodil and wood anemone in the copse just across the path from Bill Hill. Later we moved onto Bill Hill proper, near Dundas Close, where we cleared holly and young sycamores and burned them on a bonfire. The wet weather made it difficult to get the fire going.

Volunteers found some problems with bulb planting:

Wild cyclamen has large flattened "bulbs" (actually they are corms), about the size of a small potato. The upper side is slightly dished, and often the stem is beginning to emerge from this side. It is important to plant the right way up. Here is how to do it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPN4z7NeiM4>

For other bulbs, as a rule of thumb plant at a depth about 3 times the height of the bulb, and about one bulb width apart:

<http://www.thompson-morgan.com/how-to-grow-bulbs>

Bill Hill

Bill Hill is a Bronze Age barrow, see the leaflet from Bracknell Forest Council:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bill-hill-ancient-monument.pdf>

One of our volunteers remembers Bill Hill from his childhood being known as Jackdaw Woods.

Orchids at Bill Hill

We found about a dozen stems of an orchid, which looked like broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), in the copse near Bill Hill. The dried-up stems may have been the remains of something like this:

[http://wildflowerfinder.org.uk/Flowers/H/Helleborine\(BroadLeaved\)/Helleborine\(BroadLeaved\).htm](http://wildflowerfinder.org.uk/Flowers/H/Helleborine(BroadLeaved)/Helleborine(BroadLeaved).htm)

Lily Hill Park Steering Group

Don Petford has served on this Steering Group for some time. He is now standing down. Roger and Maggie Britt will attend meetings of the Group as BCV representative. The next meeting is 24 November. RB will ask about the trees donated by BCV to Lily Hill Park, which remain in quarantine. RB will report back in the next Newsletter.

Coming up next

29 November

Longhill Park

Rhododendron and laurel clearance

Produced by Roger Britt. Send any contributions/comments to rogerbritt@btinternet.com