



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 4

14 December 2016

What we've been doing

13 December 2016

Snaprails/the Greenway

Leader: Jon Munday

BFC ranger: Liz Vango-Smith

We started off planting a hedge along the cycle path into the park. It was not easy to follow the right line for the hedge, and in some places the ground was impenetrable.

Some volunteers then moved on to clear rhododendron from the island in the pond. Other volunteers cleared bramble from a wooded area. 12 volunteers attended on a rather murky and dismal day, although for most of the day the rain held off.

A notable conifer Cow's tail Pine (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) was pointed out by Richard Elsbury. This tree is originally from China, presumably planted as part of the gardens of Snaprails House.

Previous visits

BCV last visited Snaprails Park on 19 May 2016. The group demolished a fishing platform in the lake, weeded the wild flower garden and cleared brambles and nettles from around a dead tree. BFC Ranger was Alison Levy.

Snaprails Park

Snaprails Park is an area of 3.5 hectares near Owlsmoor in Sandhurst. The Park was formerly the grounds of a 19th Century house. There are open areas, a stream and pond and native woodland. Ornamental trees include giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The park came into ownership by Bracknell Forest Borough Council in 1985.

See:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/discover-snaprails-park.pdf>

Coming up next

20 December

Whitegrove copse

Coppicing and dead hedging and bring and share (see below)

Bring and share: Whitegrove copse

The 20 December task is the last before Christmas, and the last this year. Bring whatever festive food you think would go well for lunch.

From the archives – 5 years ago

On 13 December 2011 BCV were at Madingley, near Birch Hill. The task was to burn and clear rhododendron. The task record form reports that the group had to start by burning the 'Ravenswood' task. Does anybody know what this was?

The leader was Richard Elsbury. The ranger was Mark. Current volunteers present were Jon Munday, Barbara Jerome, Helen Gatehouse and Graham Coe.

Brexit and funding for conservation

The prospects for wildlife conservation as a result of the Brexit vote present a mixed picture. On the one hand, a large amount of EU funding for conservation will be lost. On the other hand, the Common Agricultural Policy has been disastrous for wildlife, and it is possible that a more wildlife-friendly approach to farming may emerge.

The Wildlife Trusts are asking MPs to pledge support for key goals to improve support for the natural world:

<http://bbowt-extra.org.uk/website-files/wildlifeneeds/NaturalWorldWinter2016/#p=1>

State of Nature Report 2016

It's not good news for the natural world. There has been a serious decline in diversity over the past 50 years, and this appears to be accelerating. Download the State of Nature Report 2016 at:

<http://bbowt-extra.org.uk/website-files/wildlifeneeds/NaturalWorldWinter2016/#p=1>

What's On

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Orchard Pruning at Larks Hill

Saturday December 17

10.30 – 13.30

Meet at Larks Hill Car Park, Harvest Ride RG42 2QD

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/pc-events-prog-nov-2016-to-april-2017.pdf>

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Coppicing and dead hedging

Jock's Copse, Bracknell

Sunday 18 December 2016

Meet at 10.15 at the site, see website for details:

http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/neil67733/BeC/BeCnewwebsite/BeC_files/BeCtasklist.htm

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