



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 7

11 January 2017

What we've been doing

10 January 2017

Savernake Park

Leader: Richard Elsbury

BFC ranger: Luke Dawson

We cleared laurel, rhodoendron and Gaultheria from a woodland area, and burned the cleared material on a bonfire.

Eleven volunteers were present. The day was cloudy but fairly mild (5-6° at 14.00). Rain had been forecast but did not arrive.

Ranger Luke told us that Liz Vango-Smith will be taking over responsibility for this park at some time soon.

Previous visits

We last visited Savernake Park on 26 April 2016. The task was removing Gaultheria (again) and brambles.

Savernake Park

This is a 6.5ha (16.1acre) public open space. There is a balancing pond, a play area and mixed woodland. Noctule bats are resident.

Savernake Park takes its name from Savernake Forest in Wiltshire. The site probably used to be part of the Great Windsor Forest. In the 1990s Savernake Park was adopted by Bracknell Forest Council who now manage the site for recreation and wildlife.

See: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/savernakepark>

Coming up next

17 January 2017

Snaprails Park

Rhododendron removal and fence improvements.

Christmas outing/bushcraft activities

BCV Christmas Outing will be on 14 March 2017. Activities will include wood whittling, fire lighting, baking bread over a campfire (including lunch) and setting up tarpaulins and hammocks. The day will be spent at one of the Bracknell Forest Council sites.

Parks in the UK

The Heritage Lottery Fund has published a report on the state of public parks in 2016. It is not good news. Usage of parks is increasing and parks are highly valued by the public. Unfortunately, generally budgets and staffing levels are being cut.

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/state-uk-public-parks-2016>

Native tree seed project

Kew Gardens have set up a 5-year project to conserve seeds of native trees. See:

<http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/research-data/science-directory/projects/uk-national-tree-seed-project>

Earliest dead hedge ever?

A dead hedge dating from the Early Bronze Age (~ 2200-1900 BCE) has been found at the Must Farm site.

<http://www.mustfarm.com/290/dead-hedge/>

Thanks to Michael John Norton Esq. for the information.

The Worshipful company of turners

Some examples of woodturning that are slightly more skilled than our attempts with the pole lathe last year.

<http://turnersco.com/>

What's on

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) –Big Garden Birdwatch

Every year, the RSPB asks people to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. You are asked to record the birds in your garden for a period of 1 hour on 28-30 January 2017. This gives valuable data on garden bird numbers. From 14 December you can register for a free Big Garden Birdwatch pack.

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Traditional Orchard Wassail at Lily Hill Park.

Saturday 14 January 2017

19:00 – 20:30

Meet at the orchard, follow the glow-sticks from the north car park, off Lily Hill Road, Bracknell, RG12 2RX.

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

Jealott's Hill Community Landshare

WALK 'N' WASSAIL
AT
Jealott's Hill
Community Landshare

Wellers Lane nr Penfurzen Lane,
Warfield, RG42 6BQ -
Off the A330 (Maidenhead/Ascot)

Sunday 29th January 2017

1.15pm ~ An informative guided walk
through the local Warfield countryside
* Booking preferred, please call 07970 356 292 or
e-mail kate.darrall@bracknellforesthomes.org.uk

2.30pm ~ Wassail Ceremony in
the Orchard & Bonfire

FREE Entry & Parking on site
No Dogs except Guide Dogs

Ellington Morris Dancers
Traditional Wassail
Hot Apple Cup
Bonfire
Refreshments
Tombola & Bric a Brac

Jealotts Hill
Community Landshare

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