



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 8

18 January 2017

What we've been doing

17 January 2017

Snaprails Park

Leader: Jon Munday

BFC ranger: Alison Levy

We cleared rhododendron from the island in the pond. A rustic trellis was created on the barrier at the end of the fishing platform using curving rhododendron branches. Some rhododendron branches were used for the trellis; the remainder was piled ready for chipping. A small Scots pine tree was felled.

Two different passers-by thanked us for the work we have done to clear this area.

A local resident spent a lot of time talking to Alison; he said that many of the rhododendrons in the area were coloured varieties originating in the garden of the former house. We will have to be careful in future about clearing rhododendron from this area.

An invasive species was found on the island: we think this is *Gaultheria mucronata* (formerly known as *Pernettya mucronata*). This is a suckering sub-shrub, belonging to the heather family (*Ericaceae*). It is commonly planted in acid soils; it bears pink flowers and white-pink berries.

Eight volunteers attended. The weather was cold but sunny.

Previous visits

We last visited Snaprails Park on 13 December 2016. We removed rhododendron from the island and planted a hedge along the path into the site.

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

24 January 2017

Englemere Pond

Scrub clearance.

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 Hayley Green woods, which has the advantage of toilets being available at Westmorland Park.

Gaultheria mucronata

Pictures of this invasive species at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/gallery/index.cfm?searchtype=s&query=Prickly%20Heath&habitat=&organismtype=&cmdSearch=Search>

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>

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

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

FREE Entry & Parking on site
No Dogs except Guide Dogs

 Jealotts Hill
Community Landshare

Warfield Environment Group

Rhododendron clearance at Hayley Green Wood, Westmorland Park
Sunday 05 February 2017
10:30 to 15:00

<https://www.streetlife.com/conversation/1rombbatipob8/>

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