



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 12

15 February 2017

What we've been doing

14 February 2017

Shepherd Meadows

Leader: Jon Munday

BFC ranger: Richard Westwood

The task was to lift the canopy of (mostly oak) trees by the path, and remove undergrowth. A few smaller trees were felled completely. The brush was burned on a bonfire. 10 volunteers attended.

A song thrush was singing as the group met in the car park.

Previous visits

BCV visited Shepherd Meadows on 13 January 2015. The task was thinning out self-seeded oaks from various locations. The group also pulled out a tree blocking the flow of the River Blackwater.

Shepherd Meadows

The site covers 40ha (100acres) of wet lowland meadow. This is now a very scarce habitat, and because of the important wildlife, Shepherd Meadows has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Natural England. Wildlife includes a large range of invertebrates, orange-tip butterflies and the devil's bit scabious. It is a good place to see kingfishers. Shepherd Meadows is named after the wildlife artist and noted conservationist David Shepherd.

The site is owned and run by Bracknell Forest Council. Shepherd Meadows is adjacent to Sandhurst Memorial Park, increasing the size of the wildlife corridor along the River Blackwater.

See: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/shepherd-meadows-and-sandhurst-memorial-park-leaflet.pdf>

Coming up next

21 February 2017

Temple Copse

Laurel removal and coppicing

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael John Norton esq. on the birth of his granddaughter Eleanor Rose on 9 February 2017.

Mother and daughter are doing well. Kathleen (Mick's daughter) has been on a number of tasks with BCV.

Street trees in Sheffield

We perhaps take street trees too much for granted. Recently, Sheffield City Council has been removing apparently healthy trees from the streets of Sheffield. The reasons given are that the trees are unsafe, but many Sheffield residents think that the fellings are in fact intended to save money on maintenance. A vigorous campaign is under way to save Sheffield's trees. A minority of Sheffield residents have complained to the council about tree roots and leaf mess, but it appears that most residents love their street trees.

<http://www.savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/>

<http://www.wildsheffield.com/what-we-do/south-yorkshire-biodiversity/planning-and-policy/sheffield-street-trees>

Some people in Sheffield are even prepared to be arrested:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-38892263>

Bracknell is the 5th most wooded borough in the UK. Our street trees make a huge contribution to making life tolerable in what might otherwise be a rather soulless suburban area.

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

What's on

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Holly clearance at Farley Copse

Sunday 26 February 2017

Meet at: 10:15am at the site (Grid ref: SU848695). Tippits Mead gateway entrance, off Tippits Mead, Binfield, RG42 1FH

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484836&Y=169547&A=Y&Z=115>

Warfield Environment Group

Big Spring Clean at Larks Hill (litter picking)

Saturday 4 March 2017 10:30 – 12:00

Meet at Larks Hill car park

Bracknell Forest Society

"The Bracknell Town Regeneration", talk by Councillor Marc Brunel-Walker, executive member for economic development and regeneration.

Bracknell Rugby Club Lily Hill Drive, RG12 2UG

Friday 10 March 2017 20:00

All welcome, bar and raffle.

South Hill Park

Community Litter Pick

Thursday 23 March 2017 10:00-11:00

Meet at courtyard in front of SHP reception, Ringmead, Bracknell RG12 7PA

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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