



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 19

14 April 2017

What we've been doing

4 April 2017

Wildmoor Heath

Leader: Jon Munday

BFC ranger: Rob Solomon, Richard Westcott, Victoria Huth [Thames Basin Heaths Partnership]

The group carried out groundwork for a path to be laid with chippings:

1. Remove old fence posts and notice board
2. Fit drainpipe into ditch and cover with pea shingle
3. Fit edging to path
4. Remove trees and overhanging branches where obstructing path

Seven volunteers attended.

11 April 2017

Savernake Park

Leader: Richard Elsbury

BFC ranger: Liz Vango-Smith

We removed *Gaultheria* and burned the cleared material on a small, controlled bonfire. Two volunteers cleaned, prepared and painted wooden sculptures. The weather was sunny and remarkably warm for April. Ten volunteers were present. There was some discussion about the next AGM and the Veteran Tree Survey (see below).

Previous visits

We last visited Wildmoor Heath on 31 January 2017; we cleared birch and Scots pine and burned it on a bonfire.

We last visited Savernake Park on 10 January 2017, removing *Rhododendron*, laurel and *Gaultheria*.

Coming up next

18 April 2017

Lily Hill Park (Starch Copse)

Clearance of holly and other vegetation, continuation of previous activity, see Newsletter No.18, 290317. Park at the Running Horse car park.

Annual General Meeting

There was some discussion about the next AGM. Those present decided to hold the AGM as follows:

Tuesday 2 May 2017

Lily Hill Park

Park at main LHP car park. A draft Agenda will be circulated in due course. If you have any items you wish to raise at the AGM, please inform Roger Britt.

Best wishes to Barbara

We were all very sorry to hear that BCV treasurer Barbara Jerome had an accident and broke her arm.

All our best wishes to Barbara for a speedy recovery. Barbara still managed to attend the task at Savernake Park.

So the take away message for all of us is: remember, you can still pull *Gaultheria* with one good arm.

Veteran Tree Survey

Some members of BCV took part in data collection for the Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey (BFVTS) in 2015. Since then, this project has not been actively pursued within BCV.

Some of us are interested in continuing this work. We discussed this at the task on 11 April 2017. A sub-group of BCV volunteers will take part in this project; some volunteers do not wish to take part. If you decide you do want to take part, get in touch.

The best way to proceed is to carry out the survey on sites as we do tasks there. Some of us carried out a "dry run" at Savernake Park:

Savernake Park

Grid reference: SU 88554 67954

No veteran trees were seen, trees appear to be relatively young.

However, some volunteers walked around the site with Ranger Liz later, and there were some very large multi-stemmed birches, possibly forming part of a former hedge line along a ditch. We may have to return to these trees and survey at some time.

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

On-site mobile phone: **07986 707 448**

Programme enquiries telephone Trevor Scott on **01344 628 602**

or email: eddiescott999@yahoo.co.uk

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