



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 26

2 June 2017

## What we've been doing

**31 May 2017**

**Horseshoe Lake**

**Leader: Jon Munday**

**BFC ranger: Richard Westwood**

One group pulled Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). There is a large amount of this invasive plant here, and we could do little more than make a dent in it. Another group replaced a kissing gate and post and rail fencing. This group completed their task with a real professional finish. The weather was cloudy and rather muggy. Eight volunteers attended.

### ***Previous visits***

We last visited Horseshoe Lake on 28 February 2017. We cleared trees and scrub from the meadow and had a bonfire with the cleared material.

### ***Horseshoe Lake***

The Horseshoe Lake site covers about 22 acres. The lake is named after the horseshoe-shaped island. It was once a working gravel pit, which has since been flooded. The site is in the Blackwater Valley, an ecologically important area of wetlands.

A range of species of birds are seen on the site. Barn owls are known to live here. The barn owl is a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is listed on the local [Biodiversity Action Plan](#). The site is also important for dragonflies, butterflies and other insects. There is a wide range of habitats, including open water, marginal shallows, shingle, bare ground, rough grassland and patches of developing scrub. Cattle are grazed on the site at some times of the year.

See: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/horseshoe-lake.pdf>

## Coming up next

**6 June 2017**

**Garth Meadows/Garth Pond**

Removal of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and other tasks. Take wellies!

## Veteran trees under threat

The Woodland Trust are active in protecting veteran trees; here is an example of their work:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blogs/woodland-trust/2017/05/new-partnership-helps-us-identify-threats/>

Here they are again, protecting veteran oaks:

[http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blogs/woodland-trust/2017/05/our-beloved-ancient-oaks/?utm\\_campaign=1799535\\_D01\\_10079\\_May17\\_ATI\\_Enews\\_20170516&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=woodlandtrust&utm\\_content=other&dm\\_i=2D76,12KJ3,5WQ5BN,37GVD,1](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blogs/woodland-trust/2017/05/our-beloved-ancient-oaks/?utm_campaign=1799535_D01_10079_May17_ATI_Enews_20170516&utm_medium=email&utm_source=woodlandtrust&utm_content=other&dm_i=2D76,12KJ3,5WQ5BN,37GVD,1)

## Slightly bigger than we deal with

The Dyerville Giant, a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) fell on March 25 1991 in California. Local residents thought freight trains had collided. At the time, the tree may have been the world's tallest tree at 370 ft. The crater it dug was 40 ft wide, and the root plate was about 30 ft high.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkAk-52LoCA>

## What's on

### ***South Hill Park***

Parks Photo: exhibition of interpretations by amateur photographers of "our borough's wonderful trees"

Friday 21 April 2017 – Sunday 11 June 2017

Long Gallery, SHP

### ***Bracknell Parks and Countryside Events***

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside events up to October 2017 are at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/pc-events-prog-may-to-oct-2017.pdf>

### ***Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers***

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