



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 37

23 August 2017

What we've been doing

22 August 2017

Piggy Wood

Leader: Graham Coe

Ranger: Alison Levy

One group of volunteers removed a post and rail fence using a mell. Another group worked on clearing vegetation from in and around the ditch to improve flow. It was not easy to maintain footing in the ditch, but fortunately nobody fell in. Work was also done on clearing vegetation between the ditch and fencing around some houses.

Nine volunteers attended.

The weather was warm with light cloud.

Previous visits

We last visited Piggy Wood on 6 June 2017. We had been clearing Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and other vegetation at Garth Pond, and we then moved to Piggy Wood to do fence/hedge work.

Piggy Wood

Piggy Wood is an area of ancient woodland, now surrounded by residential housing in the Quelm Park Estate, in the Parish of Warfield. Ancient woodland indicator plants include bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wood anemones (*Anemone nemorosa*) and the yellow-flowered wood avens or herb bennet (*Geum urbanum*), which should be flowering now. The site was adopted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council in 1998. Piggy Wood is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and a Local Wildlife Site for its high wildlife value.

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/parks-visit/piggy-wood>

Piggy Wood is part of The Cut Countryside Corridor:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cut-countryside-corridor-map.pdf>

Coming up next

29 August 2017

Lily Hill Park

Park at Running Horse car park for Starch Copse.

David Lloyd

Sadly, David Lloyd has passed away. He was very active in the (now-defunct) Bracknell Urban Wildlife Group and as a volunteer with BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust). At one time he was volunteer cattle warden for BBOWT at Wildmoor Heath.

Lyme disease

Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial disease which can have serious consequences. Rugby player Matt Dawson caught Lyme disease in a London park, and has launched a campaign to increase awareness:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40973709>

Because we work in areas of woodland or long grass where deer are likely to have been present (both of these are risk factors for Lyme disease) we should take steps to minimise the risk of tick bites. Wearing long trousers and long-sleeved shirts is recommended:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Lyme-disease/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Bees in gardens

Bees are seriously threatened. You can help by encouraging bees into your garden, here is an action pack which may help:

<http://www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/Downloads>

What's On

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

International Bat Night at Big Wood

[Discover the world of bats on a stroll around the woodland edge at dusk. Celebrate International Bat Night with a chance to see Britain's biggest bat, the Noctule.]

Saturday 26 August 2017

20:00 – 22:00

Meet at Jennett's Park car park, off Swift Fields

All Parks and Countryside events up to October 2017 are listed at:

https://files.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/bracknell/parks-events-prog-may-to-october-2017.pdf?RjXhd3XeE25xnfV90fDVp8n_TOnfT03S

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Farley Copse, ditch clearance

Sunday 27 August

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>

See Berkshire Conservation Volunteers task list at:

<http://www.berkshire-conservation-volunteers.org.uk/>

Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers (WMCV)

This conservation group meets every other Sunday, 10:00 to 15:00 or 16:00. The current schedule of tasks is at:

<http://www.wmcv.org/current-programme/>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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