



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 64

27 March 2018

What we've been doing

20 March 2018

Wildmoor Footpath 18

Leader: Jon Munday

Ranger: Richard Westwood

Pine which had been cut previously was burned on a bonfire. Some small pines and birch were cut down.

An old boardwalk was removed, nails were taken out of good boards and rotten boards were burnt.

Twelve volunteers attended. The weather was overcast with sunny spells.

Previous visits

We visited this site on 2 January 2018. We cleared trees from the heathland and burned the material on a bonfire. It was a very wet day at first, and cleared up later.

27 March 2018

Church Hill Park

Leader: Graham Coe

Ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

We cut down vegetation, mostly holly, to clear the side of the stream. The group had a fire until about lunchtime, but because of complaints from residents about having a fire and about ash settling on cars, the bonfire was allowed to go out and further material was stacked ready for chipping.

Spring flowers are beginning to appear: a volunteer spotted a clump of coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) in flower, and there were also a few primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), celandines (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and violets (*Viola* sp.).

Volunteers cleared around a fine young yew tree (*Taxus baccata*). Another yew is present slightly beyond where we were working; this is also very overgrown, and may benefit from some attention at a later date.

There was a good turnout of 17 volunteers, which may be the largest ever for a BCV task. There was some drizzle at first, but it brightened later and became quite warm.

Previous visits

We last visited Church Hill Park on 14 November 2017. We cut back small trees and other vegetation and piled the material ready for subsequent chipping. The group car got stuck in the mud and had to be hauled out.

Church Hill Park

Church Hill Park is an area of mostly woodland within the housing area close to Church Hill House hospital. There is a pond and stream, with some magnificent veteran oak trees. Many alders are growing by the stream.

The area was formerly the Easthampstead Union workhouse:

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Easthampstead/>

Further links of interest:

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/documents/s12315/6.%202008-00826-FUL%20and%2008-00830-FUL%20Land%20at%20Church%20Hill%20House.pdf>

<http://tvas.co.uk/reports/pdf/CHHH99-53dsk.pdf>

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/bf-strategic-flood-risk-assessment.pdf>

Coming up next

3 April 2018

Savernake Park

Create planting area around pond edge.

Nightingale Triangle Project

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society (BFNHS) are planning to set up a body called the "Friends of Nightingale Triangle" with the aim of organising continuing maintenance of this site.

If you are interested in joining this group, please e-mail Ray Hodges, BFNHS Publicity Officer, at bfnhspublicity@outlook.com

Plantlife's Great British Wildflower Hunt

Plantlife, the UK campaigning body for plants, is concerned that people have less contact with wild flowers than previous generations. Numbers of wild flowers have decreased substantially, and people seem to have less time to appreciate them.

The Great British Wildflower Hunt (GBWFH) was run last year to encourage people, especially children, to engage with our wild plant heritage. You can join in the 2018 wildflower hunt below:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/>

Big garden birdwatch 2018

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has released the results of the Big Garden Birdwatch 2018. This scheme has been running since 1979. The aim is to monitor numbers of common British birds by asking volunteers to count birds in their gardens.

The commonest bird seen was still the house sparrow, although sparrow numbers are declining overall. The starling was in second place. Goldfinches are doing well, and there has been an increase in numbers of siskins and bramblings, possibly due to the recent cold weather. See the full results at:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/results/#ceepDv2dT4qItvj5.99>

What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

A talk about bumblebees and solitary bees from Trevor Smith

Imperial College, Silwood Park SL5 7PY

(in the Centre for Population Biology - upstairs in Building 6)

Thursday 29 March 2018 19:30 – 21:30

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Tree guard removal at Jennetts Park

Meet at Swift Fields car park at 10:15

Sunday 15 April 2018

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "British Bats" by David Endacott

South Hill Park Recital Room

Monday 16 April 2018 19:30 (£3 fee for visitors/£1 for BFNHS members)

Bracknell Forest Council Parks and Countryside

Reptile and amphibian walk at Englemere Pond

Friday 20 April 2018 10:00 – 11:30

NB: walk is dependent on weather, meet at pond viewing platform by Englemere Pond, park in Englemere Pond car park off Swinley Road

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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