



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 65

3 April 2018

## What we've been doing

**3 April 2018**

**Bill Hill**

**Leader:** Richard Elsbury

**Ranger:** Marie-Anne Phillips

We were scheduled to work at Savernake Park, but the path on which we were supposed to work was several feet under water. Ranger Rob Solomon decided that there were no other tasks to be done at Savernake, so we moved to Bill Hill where we met ranger Marie-Anne Phillips.

We continued cutting holly where we had been working, beyond the barrow towards Friars Keep and just below the sculptures. Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire.

Twelve volunteers were present. The weather was windy with a little rain, but fairly warm. A volunteer found jelly ear fungus (*Auricularia auricula-judae*) on a branch:

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/auricularia-auricula-judae.php>

Nuthatches were calling, and robins were much in evidence.

### ***Previous visits***

We visited Bill Hill on 6 March 2018, when we were doing the same task at this site. The weather was fairly warm with sunny intervals.

### ***Changes of site***

It is very rare for the group to have to change sites. According to our records, we last had to do this on 3 January 2012. The group started coppicing woodland at Whitegrove Copse in a strong wind. A tree then fell down, so work at this site was stopped. Volunteers moved on to Garth Meadows and started clearing undergrowth for future hedge laying work. It was decided to stop work at lunchtime because of torrential rain and high winds.

## Coming up next

**10 April 2018**

**Beedon Drive**

Boundary vegetation clearance.

## 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](mailto:bfnhspublicity@outlook.com)

The first event for Friends of Nightingale Triangle Project is on Wednesday 11 April, from 10.00 onwards. Main tasks will be preparing the ground and sowing and planting seeds, bulbs and saplings from the Woodland Trust. A small team will also be surveying *Rhododendron ponticum*, with a view to deciding on further clearance work.

## Badger cull in Berkshire

*[Information from Wildlife in Ascot:]*

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are considering extending the badger cull into Berkshire. If you wish to comment on plans to extend the badger cull please email [BTBengage@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BTBengage@defra.gsi.gov.uk). To read more about badger issues please see [Binfield Badger Group's latest Newsletter here](#).

## What's on

### ***Wildlife in Ascot***

Clearing dead growth and grass from the wildflower patch at **Victory Field**

Friday 6 April                      11:00 (lasts about one hour)

Park on London Road side of Victory Field, Sunninghill SL5 7DG - plenty of parking on site.

### ***Friends of Nightingale Triangle Project***

Wednesday 11 April              10:00 onwards

Meet at Nightingale Triangle, see details on previous page

### ***Warfield Environment Group***

Nest box building at Westmorland Park/Saturday 15 April 2018

See poster:



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

### ***Berkshire Conservation Volunteers***

Tree guard removal at Jennetts Park/Sunday 15 April 2018

Meet at Swift Fields car park at 10:15

### ***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***

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

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

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