



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 67

17 April 2018

What we've been doing

17 April 2018

Bill Hill

Leader: Graham Coe

Ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

The group helped ranger Marie-Anne use the chipper to dispose of holly and some other material which had been cut previously and left in piles. We also cut holly and laurel and burned this material on a bonfire.

There was a very good turnout of 18 people, which may be a record. The weather was relatively warm, but quite windy, which caused some problems with the smoke from the bonfire.

There were three specimens of *Amelanchier* (probably *Amelanchier lamarckii*) in flower. This attractive small tree originates in North America, and has become naturalised in some parts of the UK, especially on sandy soils. It is not very invasive at the moment. *Amelanchier* has edible purplish-black berries, known as juneberries, which are relished by birds.

Two volunteers found their car blocked in by local residents of Coningsby, although a neighbour kindly moved her vehicle to allow them to leave. We may have to rethink the parking advice for Bill Hill.

Previous visits

We unexpectedly had a task session at Bill Hill on 3 April 2018, when the original task site at Savernake Park was under 1-2m of water. We worked on clearing holly from the slope beyond the barrow below the sculptures. The weather was dry and windy with a little rain, but relatively warm. Lugging holly stems uphill to the bonfire was very hard work!

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for Bracknell Conservation Volunteers will be held on-site at Garth Meadows on **8 May 2018**. If anybody has any items to raise at the AGM, please tell me or Richard Elsbury.

Coming up next

24 April 2018

Peacock Meadows

Tree guard removal and other tasks.

Hedge and woodland conservationists (HAWC)

From the HAWC website: "HAWC is a small group of local enthusiasts in East Berkshire who meet fortnightly on Saturdays throughout the winter months to coppice woodland and lay hedges. It is an autonomous, self-funding group affiliated to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and to the British Hedgelaying Society."

See website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/hawcbracknellforest/home>

Brimstone butterflies

The brimstone butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) is now on the wing. This is a very active, strong-flying butterfly. The male is unmistakable with vivid yellow wings; the female is paler, almost greenish-white in colour. The food plant of the larva is purging buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) or alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). On 16 June 2015 BCV planted buckthorn at Englemere Pond with ranger Rob Solomon to encourage brimstones. Although not recorded, we probably planted both species of buckthorn. At this session, brimstone caterpillars were seen feeding on buckthorn twigs.

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/species/brimstone>

What's on

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

The inaugural meeting is provisionally planned for 18:00 on Monday 23 April at Bracknell Leisure Centre.

Ed. will e-mail group when time/date is confirmed.

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Pine clearance on heathland at Caesar's Camp.

Sunday 21 April 2018

Meet at Lookout car park at 10:15

Park tidy and mulching at Snaprails Park.

Sunday 29 April 2018

For more details and contact details see:

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

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "**Sarracenias and Pitcher Plants**" by James Rosindell (plus BFNHS AGM).

South Hill Park Recital Room

Monday 21 May 2018 19:30 (£3 fee for visitors/£1 for BFNHS members)

For more details and contact details see:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/meetings.html>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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