



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 75

02 August 2018

## What we've been doing

### 24 July 2018

### Blackmoor Pond

This was the first of two planned visits to Blackmoor Pond. The primary task was to construct a bank on the island to house artificial kingfisher nest sites. The nest boxes were brought by one of our volunteers who is a member of Ascot Wildlife, who are coordinating the kingfisher flyway project. Unfortunately the woodcrete nest boxes had been broken in transit. It was decided to continue with the construction of the bank, using straw bales, chicken wire and corrugated iron, with rolls of turf as "bricks" to clothe the construction. The materials were ferried across to the island using the boat, with ropes arranged to pull the boat back and forth.

Other volunteers worked on clearing vegetation along the Blackmoor Stream to the SW of the pond. The aim is to clear the flyway for kingfishers. A wasps' nest was found at one part of the stream bank and 2 volunteers were stung, although they both declined first aid.

A good turnout of 17 volunteers attended. The weather was again very warm and sunny; we were lucky to be working under the shade of trees.

### 31 July 2018

### Blackmoor Pond/Englemere Pond

Our second trip to Blackmoor Pond was very eventful. Initially, we assembled on site, but the group car did not arrive. This was because the car failed to start. We may need to buy a new car! Consequently, there was some delay in getting started.

Eventually, some volunteers completed the kingfisher bank on the island, and others cleared away cut material left from last week. We also trimmed a hedge around the boundary of the Bracknell Forest site.

We then moved to Englemere Pond, where we cut back birch and other invasive species with the aim of encouraging the heathland to colonise.

The weather was warm and sunny, but not too warm.

A total of 16 volunteers attended, including 5 new recruits: 3 of these were from corporate groups.

One volunteer received a number of wasp stings, and another was stung by ants.

## Coming up next

**07 August 2018**

**Garth Pond**

Himalayan balsam pulling. Meet at Lark's Hill car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487036&Y=170730&A=Y&Z=106&ax=486775&ay=170826>

**14 August 2018**

**Lily Hill Park**

TBA. Meet in North car park, off Lily Hill Road.

## Thanks from us all....

Helen Gatehouse has been our webmaster as well as being a regular volunteer for some considerable time. Helen was always ready to don waders, and must have removed several tons of parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum*) in her time.

Helen has built us a wonderful website, which is far easier to use than many of the professionally produced websites we encounter in our everyday searches on the web.

Helen moved to the Isle of Wight a little while ago, but has still continued to run our website. She has now decided to stand down as webmaster. We would like to send her our thanks for all the work she has done. We hope that she continues to have a great time in the Isle of Wight, and gets in lots of sailing in the Solent. Heartfelt thanks from all of us!

## .... and welcome

Stuart Bell has kindly agreed to take over the webmaster position for BCV. Welcome to Stuart, and I am sure that we will all give him our full support.

## In memoriam – dawn redwood

Specimen dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) trees have been planted in Town Square, near Bracknell Central Library. Sadly, these trees are clearly ailing, and one tree appears to be dead already. Why don't developers devote some effort to aftercare of young trees?

## What's on

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

Maintenance work party at the Triangle

**Saturday 4 August**                      **10:00 – 12:00**

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

Conservation work at Allen's Field, South Ascot

**Saturday 11 August**                      **09:30 – 12:30**

Allen's Field, off Liddell Way, South Ascot SL5 9U7

Bat walk with Trevor Smith at Englemere Pond

**Saturday 18 August**                      **start 20:15**

Meet at car park off Swinley Road, SL5 8BA

### ***Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside***

Community litter pick at South Hill Park

**Monday 13 August**                      **10:00 – 11:00**

Meet in courtyard in front of South Hill Park reception, Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA

Apple harvest at Larks Hill

**Monday 27 August**                      **12:00 – 13:00**

Meet in Larks Hill car park.

Booking required: cost £3, call 01344 354441 to book

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

Bat Walk at Westmorland Park

**Saturday 8 September 2018**

*For full information see:*



bat walk poster  
080918.pdf

***Bracknell Forest Natural History Society***

Bisham Woods: a talk on flora and fauna by Frances Halstead

**Monday 17 September**                      **19:30 – 21:30**

Recital Room at South Hill Park, Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA.

Cost £3 for visitors, £1 for members of BFNHS

***Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers***

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