



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 78

20 September 2018

What we've been doing

4 September 2018

Englemere Pond



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Some of the group cut back reeds and small trees from the edge of the pond. Others worked on scything reeds in the pond, which was largely dried out. The expanse of mud exposed was very deep in some places and difficult to negotiate without falling over or losing wellies. All cut material was burnt on a bonfire.

17 volunteers attended, another very good turnout. The weather was overcast, fairly warm.

11 September 2018

Nightingale Triangle

We cleared and burnt rhododendron, holly and some marked trees to the left of the main path. The weather was cloudy but warm. There was another good turnout of 18, and we were very glad to welcome 4 new volunteers.

18 September 2018

Lily Hill Park

Some of the group donned waders to clear vegetation from the pond into the boat. Others cleared brambles and other invasive vegetation alongside the path and ditch. Some rhododendron trees were trimmed judiciously: the specimen rhododendrons at Lily Hill Park are of historical importance, and are not cut back ruthlessly like the ubiquitous *Rhododendron ponticum*. Cut material was burnt on a bonfire.

We had a record turnout of 22, beating our last record of 20 on 21 August 2018 at School Hill. The weather was warm and sunny.

Coming up next

25 September 2018

Berrybank

Vegetation clearance. Parking in Berrybank:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=485142&Y=160941&A=Y&Z=110>

2 October 2018

Tarman's Copse

Medieval sunken lane coppicing near Tarman's Copse: Park in Blackcap Drive

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=485046&Y=168486&A=Y&Z=110&ax=484856&ay=168109>

(or nearby in Tawny Owl Square next to the Jennett's Park Primary School off Sparrowhawk Way)

Award for Wildlife in Ascot

Wildlife in Ascot have won the "Dorothy Morley" award from Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), in recognition of the work carried out on the Kingfisher Flyway Project. BCV did a substantial amount of work at Blackmoor Pond on our visits on 31 July 2018 and 24 July 2018. We also worked on rhododendron clearance from the island and banks on 10 October 2017.

Caving in the Mendips

One of our volunteers is active in exploring and digging caves in the Mendips, especially Upper Canada cave and other caves near Hutton:

<https://darknessbelow.co.uk/exploration-discovery-of-upper-canada-cave/>

Fossil remains of a horse from the Pleistocene era (25000 years ago) have been found in this cave system, showing that large mammals were present at the height of the Last Glacial Maximum.

Volunteers are needed to help with cave digging: If any member of BCV wants to volunteer to help with cave digging, please get in touch.

What's on

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

Regular maintenance sessions start again on:

Saturday 29 September

10:00 – 15:00

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Hazel harvesting and bonfire at Jennett's Park.

[Join the rangers to harvest hazel (good for beanpoles) and enjoy the warmth of a bonfire while you work.]

Saturday 29 September 2018

13:00 – 15:00

Meet at Jennett's Park car park, off Swift Fields, Bracknell, RG12 8DY.

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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