



# Newsletter

## Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 79

7 October 2018

## What we've been doing

### 25 September 2018

### Berrybank

We cut back vegetation on 2 areas and burnt cleared material on a bonfire. The aim in one area was to remove brambles and nettles so that trees could be planted. The ground surface here was extremely uneven. Group members on the other area cleared invasive plants, including holly and rhododendron.

This was a fairly eventful day: the group car had a flat tyre and refused to start; we also had a sudden explosion from the bonfire, which may have been an exploding gas canister.

We found a number of such canisters on site, these probably contained nitrous oxide (laughing gas), and are inhaled by users to obtain a "high":

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-33691783>

We had a very good turnout of 19 volunteers, and we were very pleased to welcome a new volunteer. The weather was cold at first, but became warm and sunny later.

### 2 October 2018

### Tarman's Copse

We worked on Burnt House Ride, which is a medieval sunken pathway close to Tarman's Copse. There was some initial difficulty in finding the parking area in Tawny Owl Square: Jennett's Park is not at all easy to navigate.

We coppiced hazel stools by the path. The hazel had clearly been coppiced at one time, but had been neglected, and many of the stems were very thick and challenging to cut down. Suitable material was kept for binders and stakes for hedging; other material was taken away in a trailer.

Some advice on coppicing is given here:

[https://www.conservationhandbooks.com/how-coppice-trees/?gclid=EAiaIQobChMIxZfi7oDr3QIVhrHtCh1bEgWrEAAYASAAEgJ6RPD\\_BwE](https://www.conservationhandbooks.com/how-coppice-trees/?gclid=EAiaIQobChMIxZfi7oDr3QIVhrHtCh1bEgWrEAAYASAAEgJ6RPD_BwE)

The weather was cold at first but quite warm and muggy later. We had a record turnout of 23 volunteers. We were very pleased to welcome 2 new volunteers.

## Coming up next

**9 October 2018**

**Nightingale Triangle**

Continuing maintenance as part of woodland restoration project. Parking in Firlands:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487386&Y=167814&A=Y&Z=106>

**16 October 2018**

**Lark's Hill**

Ditch clearance. Park in Larks Hill car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487188&Y=170752&A=Y&Z=106&ax=487156&ay=170801>

## Taupe for recycling

Black plastic plant pots cannot be recycled at the kerbside because they are invisible to the infrared sensors used at recycling plants. The Horticultural Trades Association is supporting an initiative to move to taupe-coloured plant pots, which can be recycled at the kerbside.

<https://hta.org.uk/assurance-compliance/plastic-pot-initiative.html>

## Tawny owl survey

There is evidence that owl populations are in decline. The British Trust for Ornithology is surveying the commonest owl, the tawny owl, and is asking people to report if they hear tawny owls calling. To report owl calls, go to:

<https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/project-owl/tawny-owl-calling-survey>

## What's on

### ***Bracknell Forest Natural History Society***

Britain's Hidden Depths – corals and sponges

**Monday 15 October**

**19:30 at South Hill Park Recital Room**

See poster:



BFNHS poster Corals  
and Sponges 15.10.1

### ***Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers***

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

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