



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 81

1 November 2018

## What we've been doing

**23 October 2018**

**Popes Meadow**

We cleared brambles from the bank to open access to the edge of the pond. Group members who were willing to don waders cleared reedmace (aka bulrush, *Typha latifolia*) and the invasive alien parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) from the pond. The cleared material was put in piles ready for removal by trailer.

There was light cloud at first and it was quite chilly, but it warmed up later and became quite sunny. We had another good turnout of 19 volunteers.

**30 October 2018**

**Allsmoor**

We removed holly from the woodland by the path to create a clearing. Cut material was burnt on a bonfire. Some quite large holly trees were cut down.

We had a close to record turnout of 23, and were very pleased to welcome a new volunteer. The weather was cloudy and surprisingly cold at first, but improved somewhat later. The amended constitution for BCV was accepted by show of hands at coffee break.

## Coming up next

**6 November 2018**

**Tarmans Copse (am)**

**Wykery Copse (pm)**

Path drainage improvements. Park initially in Tawny Owl Square, near the school:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484738&Y=168044&A=Y&Z=106>

**13 November 2018**

**Westmorland Park**

Hazel coppicing. Parking in designated car park for Westmorland Park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488603&Y=170622&A=Y&Z=110&ax=488653&ay=170817>

## BCV constitution

The Bracknell Conservation Volunteers constitution was last amended in 2003. Some minor amendments were needed. Some discussion of the amended constitution was held on 23 October. The amended draft constitution was circulated to group members, and was accepted by show of hands at the Allsmoor task on 30 October 2018.

## Lily Hill Park steering group

BCV was represented at the (very short) meeting of the Lily Hill Park steering group on 25 October. There was not a great deal new in the progress report. The steering group was updated on the work done by BCV. Our representative emphasized the challenging nature of the work we did on the pond.

BCV's work on the edging of the wildflower meadow was warmly praised for improving the quality of the meadow. The steering group were impressed with our work around the Wellingtonias.

Recently, BCV visited LHP on:

**18 September 2018:** pond clearance and invasive plant clearance

**14 August 2018:** digging out invasive plants (including some Japanese knotweed)

**17 July 2018:** continuing edging around the wildflower meadow, and some very hard work digging out saplings!

**12 June 2018:** cutting back vegetation near the Wellingtonias

## State of the world's fungi

Fungi used to be thought of as anomalous plants without chlorophyll. Since the advent of molecular genetics, fungi are now recognised as a kingdom in their own right, more closely related to animals than plants.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew has published the first State of the World's Fungi report, highlighting how important fungi are for all life on earth.

[Explore the State of the World's fungi report and our science](#)

## Wetlands in peril

Globally, wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests. We know wetlands for their importance for wildlife, but they also play a hugely important role in protecting against flooding. An international conference was held in Dubai recently to address the question of conservation of urban wetlands:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46020176>

## Ash dieback

Ash dieback is a fatal disease of ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) caused by a fungus. The disease continues to spread in the UK, and has recently been found in Kew's wild woodland site at Wakehurst Place in Sussex. As much as 95% of ash trees in the UK could be under threat. The Woodland Trust has a guide to ash dieback:

[https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/tree-diseases-and-pests/key-threats/ash-dieback/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIrsrn1Y6z3gIVx5AYCh0oxwxqEAAYASAAEgIi3vD\\_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/tree-diseases-and-pests/key-threats/ash-dieback/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIrsrn1Y6z3gIVx5AYCh0oxwxqEAAYASAAEgIi3vD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

## What's on

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

Talk on 'Magnificent Nepal' by Chris Chadwell.

**Monday 19 November                      19:30 – 21:30**

Recital Room at South Hill Park, entrance fee £1 for members, £3 for visitors

### ***Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)***

Christmas Tree sale

**Saturday 8 December                      11:00 – 15:00**

**Sunday 9 December                        11:00 – 15:00**

Wildmoor Heath car park, Crowthorne Road, RG45 7PP.

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

Heathland Magic: conservation work at Wildmoor Heath

**Saturday 15 December:                    10:30 – 13:30.**

Meet at: Wildmoor Heath car park, Crowthorne Road, RG45 7PP.

Free but booking required, tools provided but bring your own gloves:

[Book a place on Heathland Magic.](#)

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

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

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

or email: [eddiescott999@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eddiescott999@yahoo.co.uk)

*Produced by Roger Britt. Send any contributions/comments to [rogerbritt@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerbritt@btinternet.com)*

This Newsletter has been sent to you via a mailing list which contains your personal data, and which is managed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). You may unsubscribe from the Newsletter at any time by sending an e-mail with the word "**unsubscribe**" in the subject line to: [rogerbritt@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerbritt@btinternet.com)