



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 82

15 November 2018

What we've been doing

6 November 2018 **Tarmans Copse/Wykery Copse**

We carried out coppicing at Tarmans Copse, and then moved to Wykery Copse, where we installed a plastic drainage pipe to drain water from a path near the pond. The pond in Wykery Copse is heavily silted.

The weather was warm and overcast. 17 volunteers attended.

13 November 2018 **Westmorland Park**

We coppiced along a hedgerow by a path close to the car park. Stakes 1.4m in length were made from the coppiced material and piled for future use. Whippy branches suitable as binders for hedging were also chosen and stacked for future use. The rest of the cleared material was piled ready for disposal by chipping.

Some old tree guards and quantities of concrete were found by some of the group.

A late-flying red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) was seen sunning itself on a bramble leaf.

We had a turnout of 19 volunteers. The weather was sunny and bright, quite warm for mid November.

Coming up next

20 November 2018 **Englemere Pond**

Clearing scrub. Meet in designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=490131&Y=168568&A=Y&Z=110&ax=490166&ay=168453>

27 November 2018 **Tinkers Copse**

Pond creation. Parking in Boltons Lane or in Jock's Lane car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=485623&Y=170445&A=Y&Z=110>

Ascot Wildlife kingfisher flyway project: an update

[text from Ascot Wildlife]:

The first stage was to remove much of the silt, many of the overhanging branches and the large introduced fish (various carp) from the pond, which was done professionally, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). We then had the voluntary effort, to which BCV contributed, especially with the nest site built on the island. Ascot Wildlife also had a planting session, native species into the silt that had been dredged and deposited at side of the pond.

Most recently, a small team of Ascot Wildlife people have launched into the task of ensuring that the stream itself is in good condition. We've knocked on all doors of houses that have stream in their garden. About a 100 in total - we've spoken with about 70 homeowners, inspected about 50 gardens and done work in a dozen or so (mainly for older folk, mainly removing silt and some overhanging branches). Everyone has at least had a leaflet that we created, with advice from Environment Agency (that tiny stream is designated as a Main River by the EA!). Homeowners have different approaches to having a stream in their garden - some take their responsibility seriously, many use it as a feature, some turn their back on it completely.

We're also now doing some work in a neighbouring Heritage Wildlife Site, which borders the stream for about two hundred yards, just "over the border" in Windsor & Maidenhead. Removing invasive plants, clearing stream in a few places that we could not otherwise access, and litter-picking.

Local reaction has been very positive, and we've had a couple of awards, partly on basis of this project. BBOWT gave us their bi-annual Dorothy Morley £1,000 prize for 2018 a couple of months ago, and yesterday [13/11/18] we were presented with £501 by Bracknell Forest Council as the winner of their most recent quarterly Recycling Incentive Scheme.

We've got some more work to do in the Heritage Wildlife Site, we then need to make our final submission to HLF to get our final funding, and then hope to see nestsite in use next Spring. Kingfishers have been seen recently so there is a chance. And of course, we've improved the habitat for all sorts of wildlife in any case. Ascot Wildlife will take on some ongoing role to ensure the stream does not deteriorate.

In total, we've put in nearly 600 manhours of effort (about 50% physical and 50% more cerebral; talking with landowners, liaising with HLF, EA, BFC etc.), of which BCV has contributed just over 100, in our visits in July. Thanks for that input, and I'll let you know if and when we see nestsite in use.

What's on

Binfield Environment Group

Volunteers wanted to create two wild flower sites in the Wicks Green/Jubilee Field area.

Saturday 17 November **10:00 – 14:00**

Please bring forks, spades, rakes, suitable footwear, gloves, sensible clothes, and a refreshing drink.

Meet at the car park off Stevenson Drive, Binfield RG42 5TB. For further information please contact Jane on 07791 493121 or binfieldeg@gmail.com

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

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

Regular maintenance session:

Saturday 24 November **10:00 – 15:00**

Warfield Environment Group

Volunteers wanted to plant hedgerow trees at Larks Hill.

Saturday 24 November **13:00 – 15:30**

Please wear suitable, warm outdoor clothes and footwear, and bring gloves. Further information on the poster:



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Meet at the Larks Hill car park:

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

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

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