



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 83

29 November 2018

What we've been doing

20 November 2018

Englemere Pond

The task was continuing clearance of invasive species to encourage growth of heather. We removed pine, birch and other species and burnt the cleared material on a bonfire. Much of the material removed was regrowth since previous work done by BCV. The alien invasive *Gaultheria shallon* was growing in some parts of the site.

We had a very good turnout of 20, and we were very pleased to welcome 2 new volunteers.

The weather was cloudy with some light rain, fairly mild for the time of year.

27 November 2018

Tinker's Copse

We cleared vegetation, dug out a pond and made faggots from coppiced material (see next page).

There was a near-record turnout of 24 volunteers, and we were very pleased to welcome 2 new volunteers. The weather was initially overcast and chilly (about 6°C); it then started to drizzle at about 11:00.

Coming up next

4 December 2018

Wildmoor Heath/Footpath 18

Heathland clearance. Meet at Pinehill Road/Gordon Road:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484214&Y=163369&A=Y&Z=110&ax=484714&ay=163369>

11 December 2018

Long Hill Park

tree planting and scrub clearance. Meet in designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=489343&Y=169309&A=Y&Z=110&ax=489343&ay=169309>

Fancy a G & T?

You can now support the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) while you sip your gin and tonic.

Byron's Gin, produced by Speyside Distillery, makes a contribution to BSBI for each bottle bought. The gin is flavoured with local botanicals, chosen on advice from the BSBI.

<https://bsbi.org/byrons-gin>

Faggots/stakes/dams

BCV made faggots from coppiced hazel at Tinker's Copse on 27 November 2018. As far as we know, this is the first time BCV have made faggots. The material used was about 2m long, bundled into faggots about 30cm round.

BFC rangers are keen to promote use of local wood resources for projects.

These websites show how faggots can be used in management of water levels:

<http://www.willowbankservices.co.uk/brush-wood-faggots/>

<http://www.water-land.uk.com/brushwood-faggots>

Wykery Copse

Some volunteers, in cooperation with the BFC rangers, are interested in using faggots to help restore the water table in Wykery Copse. This used to be a wet area, before houses were built surrounding the site. Volunteers plan to make stakes from locally sourced wood, and use the stakes to hold faggots.

Tarman's Copse

At the task on 6 November 2018 some volunteers used a froe to split stakes and planks from coppiced chestnut obtained from Tarman's Copse. This copse used to be a site for chestnut coppicing, and BFC rangers are interested in encouraging a return to coppice management.

Englemere Pond

Some volunteers have been working on techniques to make post and rail fencing, which is another means of using local wood resources. At Englemere Pond on 20 November 2018, a sweet chestnut tree was cut down with permission from the BFC ranger. The tree was cut to about 11 feet in length, then a cleave was made from the trunk. It was found that the cleave could be used successfully to split trunks. This method may be used to make rails for post and rail fencing.

What's on

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Birds in Winter by Brian Clews.

Monday 10 December

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 8 December

10:00 – 15:00

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.

See poster:



A4 Poster - Wildlife
Trusts Christmas Tree

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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