



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **100**

8 August 2019

## What we've been doing

**30 July 2019**

**Northerams Wood**

The main task today was to clear out the vegetation from the existing pond, excavate the pond depression and fit a pond liner, so that the rain can fill the pond. Much of the vegetation was the yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) which is relatively easy to pull up.

Other volunteers constructed a stag beetle loggery, and cut back bramble from around the pond margin. We exposed some aspen and ash trees, which had been completely smothered in bramble.

There were 19 volunteers present, and we were very glad to welcome 2 corporate volunteers, who really got into the spirit of things, taking their boots off so they could get on top of the liner and help to bed it down.

An invasive shrub *Spiraea* was found round the pond margins, this may need removal at some time.

Interesting plants around the pond included yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) and the climber black bryony (*Tamus communis*).

The weather was warm, with some heavy showers. We mostly kept dry under the trees, work only had to be interrupted a couple of times.



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## 6 August 2019

## Westmorland Park

Overhanging vegetation was cleared from hedges along the paths near the playground and stacked in the hedgerows.

Other volunteers cleared vegetation from a bank below a veteran oak with slashers, piling the cleared material in an inconspicuous location. We also weeded the cleared area around the veteran oak. We last weeded this area on 30 April 2019, so there was about 3 months' worth of regrowth.

At coffee time we continued the discussion about emergency contact information which was started at our AGM on 4 June 2019. The consensus is that each volunteer will keep his/her own information in their rucksack or bag, where it can be found if necessary. A volunteer had kindly provided envelopes and forms to be used for emergency contact information.

After lunch volunteers scythed the grass verges alongside the path running along the Bull Brook to County Lane. Scythed material was raked up and piled among the trees lining the path.

The weather was overcast but warm. 22 volunteers attended.



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## Coming up next

**13 August 2019**

**Lily Hill Park**

Install roof of equipment port and bramble clearance in Starch Copse

Meet at the Running Horse car park. There is usually sufficient parking here:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488376&Y=169095&Z=106>

**20 August 2019**

**Frost Folly**

Installing new footbridge and gates. Meet in the designated car park:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487370&Y=172616&Z=110>

## Wykery Copse

On 5 March 2019 the group visited Wykery Copse. Part of the task was to create a dam at the outlet from the stream, with the aim of creating a pond/wetland area. This does not seem to have succeeded in lifting the water table, so some volunteers have been going back to Wykery Copse to repair the dam. On the last visit on 25 July the water level had increased by 2-3 inches, but the stream is still flowing through. More work may be needed on the dam.

## Green flags for Bracknell parks

Six Bracknell Forest Council parks have received a Green Flag Award this year:

- Lily Hill Park
- South Hill Park
- Pope's Meadow
- Snaprails Park
- Westmorland Park
- Shepherd Meadows and Sandhurst Memorial Park (managed in conjunction with Sandhurst Town Council)

For details see:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/node/5164>

## Big Butterfly Count

From website:

*"The Big Butterfly Count is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 100,000 people took part in 2018, submitting 97,133 counts of butterflies and day-flying moths from across the UK (see [all the 2018 results](#)).*

*The **Big Butterfly Count** 2019 will take place from Friday 19 July - Sunday 11 August."*

<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

## What's on

### ***Wildlife in Ascot***

Conservation work at Allen's Field, South Ascot, off Liddell Way SL5 9UZ

**Saturday 10 August 2019**

**09:30 – 12:30**

See below for details:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wildlifeinascot/events>

Tree recording walk

**Monday 12 August 2019**

email [ascot.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:ascot.wildlife@gmail.com) to take part

### ***National Trust***

Re-chalking the White Horse at Uffington

**Sunday 25 / Monday 26 August**

**10:00 – 16:00**

White Horse Hill, Uffington SN7 7QJ

Tel: 01793 762209

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

Evening talk on **Bracknell Biodiversity/Help a Hog**

with Marlies Boydell, Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Officer

**Monday September 16 2019**

**start 19:30**

**South Hill Park**

For details see:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/>

### ***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)

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