



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **103**

19 September 2019

What we've been doing

10 September 2019

Wildmoor

We last visited Wildmoor on 12 February 2019, when we did scrub clearance, mostly gorse on that occasion.

The task today was clearing birch and pine saplings, gorse and bracken from a heathland area.

Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire. The bonfire was started without matches using the cotton wool and vaseline® technique learnt at our woodcraft training session in Hayley Green Woods on 14 March 2017.

The ground at Wildmoor is very uneven, with deep ditches cutting across the ground, consequently it was a difficult task hauling cleared material to the bonfire.

A violet ground beetle *Carabus violaceus* appeared while we were eating lunch, and was gently assisted to a safe place.

See: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/beetles/violet-ground-beetle>

A rather damaged specimen of the bolete fungus penny bun or cep *Boletus edulis* was found.

There were 19 volunteers present. The weather was fine and quite warm.



© Bracknell Conservation Volunteers 2019

17 September 2019

Wildmoor

This was a continuation of the work from the previous week. A bonfire was built on the same site, and some cleared material left from last week was burnt. Then further clearance was done, mostly birch, gorse and pine, and this material was also burnt on the bonfire.

A fox moth caterpillar (*Macrothylacia rubi*) was discovered in a pile of gorse cut last week. See: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/fox-moth>

All three common species of heather were found: ling or heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) and cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*).



© Bracknell Conservation Volunteers 2019

20 volunteers attended. The weather was fine and warm with a light breeze.

Coming up next

24 September 2019

Wykery Copse

Woven hazel fencing and boardwalk removal.

Street parking in the vicinity of the junction of Butler Drive with Browning Copse.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=485154&Y=168740&Z=106>

1 October 2019

Westmorland Park (Hayley Green Woods)

Pond digging and vegetation clearance.

Park in the designated car park. There is usually ample room here.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=488656&y=170824&z=106>

Ash stumps

The sticks (hurleys or hurl sticks) used in the Irish sport of hurling are usually made from ash. Hurley manufacturers particularly like the lowest metre or so of the ash stump, because the splay of the roots gives the hurley its characteristic curved shape.

The Woodland Trust has been able to sell about 175 young ash trees from Elemore Woods in County Durham to the hurley specialist Gerry Ryan Sawmills. The Trust will earn about £5000 for trees which had been destined for firewood. Clearance of the young trees will promote biodiversity on the woodland floor.

From the Woodland Trust magazine *Broadleaf* No. 98, Autumn 2019.

What's on

Bracknell Forest Society

A series of **Heritage Open Days** runs until Sunday 22 September 2019.

"Thirteen Bracknell Forest locations are participating this year with either open days or organised tours – all are free. The attached leaflet lists all of the events in Bracknell Forest in date order. This is an opportunity to take a look inside some of the buildings that you pass regularly."

See leaflet:



2019 HODs brochure
- by date final.pdf

Wildlife in Ascot

Tree recording walk along a green corridor in Ascot

Thursday 19 September 2019

14:00 – 16:00

e-mail: ascot.wildlife@gmail.com to join

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Heritage Open Day walk at Lily Hill Park: guided walk to learn about the exotic trees and plants in this historic park (free event)

Friday 20 September 2019

10:30 – 11:30

Meet at North car park off Lily Hill Road:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488766&Y=169407&Z=110>

Bracknell Forest Society

Evening talk on **The Romans in Swinley Forest** by **Richard Brignall**.

Monday 23 September 2019

19:30

South Hill Park

Richard is an expert on the history of the forest and will talk about the The Devil's Highway and Roman encampments in the forest.

Extinction Rebellion event

Climate Change: Heading for Extinction (and what to do about it)

Easthampstead Baptist Church, South Hill Road, Bracknell RG12 7NS

Thursday 26 September 2019

19:00 – 21:30

<https://www.facebook.com/events/863928557318851/>

"A science-based examination of climate and ecological breakdown and the power of peaceful rebellion."

Entry free, donations welcomed; for queries contact: xr-bracknell@protonmail.com

Bracknell Forest Society

70 years of the New Town: an exhibition of photographs, maps and documents

Saturday 5 October – Sunday 6 October 2019

Bracknell Town Council offices, Brooke House, 54 High St, Bracknell RG12 1LL

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on **Bees and neonicotinoids** by Dr. Ben Woodcock

Monday October 21 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

Produced by Roger Britt. Send any contributions/comments to 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