	Newsletter
	Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
	Newsletter No. **88** 14 February 2019

What we've been doing

5 February 2019   Hayley Green Woods

One group removed brambles from beneath trees, using forks. The aim was to remove the bramble roots as thoroughly as possible, to prevent regrowth. Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire. A toad and a frog with only 1 back leg were rescued from the site. The frog appeared to be coping very well.

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Other volunteers dug out a stream to create 2 ponds. A dam was constructed from logs and earth, using only materials available on site. The dam was very effective.

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The weather was relatively mild, about 6°C, but overcast. A close to record turnout of 24 volunteers attended.

12 February 2019   Wildmoor Heath

The site was an area of heathland which had been cut before. The group removed encroaching scrub, mostly gorse and some Scots pine. There were large numbers of pine seedlings invading the cleared area. The BFC ranger cut down some mature heather plants using a strimmer. A red admiral butterfly was seen basking.
There was a good turnout of 18 people. The weather was relatively mild with some sunshine.

Coming up next

19 February 2019   **Nighingale triangle**

Woodland restoration project. Street parking in Firlands (RG12 9SB / SU873679):

http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487386&Y=167814&A=Y&Z=106

26 February 2019   **Bill Hill**

Holly reduction, street parking in Rectory Close (RG42 3SH / SU878702).

http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487863&Y=170221&A=Y&Z=110

Bracknell Neighbourhood Plan

Bracknell Town Council has published a Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation:

http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/planning/bracknell_town_neighbourhood_plan/bracknell_town_neighbourhood_plan_1?tab=files

The Plan sets out objectives for the future of the area and contains planning policies to guide the development and use of land in Bracknell Town. There is much of interest for BCV, including a lot of information about local trees

Tawny owl survey

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is asking people to help in a survey of tawny owl numbers, by listening for the characteristic calls. See:

https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/project-owl/tawny-owl-calling-survey

New horizon elm

Woolley Firs is a nature reserve run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). Two members of BCV, on a walk through the reserve, report that elm has been planted in Robin Hood's Arbour, with the aim of encouraging the rare white-letter hairstreak butterfly. The elm is of the "new horizon" variety, which is resistant to Dutch elm disease. The elm was planted in a clearing which had been created, with wild ivy left standing on the trees. See:

https://www.bbowt.org.uk/explore/discover-and-learn/woolley-firs-berks

https://www.hillier.co.uk/trees/news/rare-butterfly-breed-saved-new-horizon-elm-tree/

What's on

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

Regular maintenance session *(to replace 2 February session, which was abandoned due to snow):*

Saturday 16 February 2019   **10:00 – 15:00**

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk: "**On the trail of polecats and pine martens"** by Lizzie Croose

Recital Room, South Hill Park

Monday 18 February 2019   **19:30 – 21:30**

Cost for BFNHS members £1, visitors £3

Wildlife in Ascot

Victory Field wildflower bed annual maintenance

Wednesday 20 February 2019   **14:00**

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