



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **92**

11 April 2019

What we've been doing

2 April 2019

Frost Folly

The group put in a new field gate:



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We also removed 4 pedestrian gates and installed 3 new pedestrian gates. Some cutting back of hedge vegetation was also done. 19 volunteers attended on an overcast and rainy day.

9 April 2019

Lily Hill Park

This was our somewhat delayed Christmas event. We welcomed James Dille of Ancientcraft, who gave us a very enjoyable presentation about flint knapping, then provided flints, stones and antlers so we could practise knapping ourselves. We first made a small hand scraper, then tried to make hand axes, most of which had to be finished off by James. Knapping is more difficult than it looks; it's also hard work, particularly on the wrists. The flint knapping workshop was held in the shelter near the orchard, which gave welcome protection against the rain, although it was still quite cold.



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See Ancientcraft at:

<https://www.ancientcraft.co.uk/>

We had a barbecue at lunch time, which also gave welcome warmth in view of the increasingly heavy rain.

Those volunteers who were not practising flint knapping continued the work of building bird nestboxes started on 19 March. It was raining lightly much of the day, and the rain became heavier in the afternoon. Some completed nestboxes were taken into the Lodge for treatment with teak oil and seam sealing with glue. We welcomed 21 volunteers on a cold and wet day.

Coming up next

16 April 2019

Cabbage Hill

Installing new gates, tidying planting done by developer, and tree guard work.

Park in designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=486231&y=171262&z=110>

23 April 2019

Ambarrow Court

Coir roll installation and summer bulb planting. Meet at designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=482474&Y=162667&Z=115>

Loddon lilies and (sadly) fly tipping

The Loddon lily (*Leucojum aestivum*) is a close relative of the snowdrop, with striking white flowers tinged with green in April/May. As its name suggests, it is found in wet areas by the River Loddon, and also by the Thames. It is the county flower of Berkshire.

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species/summer-snowflake>

Two of our volunteers found a wonderful display of Loddon lilies at Dinton pastures, near Winnersh. Unfortunately, they also found a very large amount of fly-tipping, apparently tipped from the A329M. They have reported this.

Can you be a leader?

Our task leaders do a crucial job organising and managing BCV tasks. Without leaders, we cannot continue as a group. Currently, one of our leaders is unavailable for family reasons, which means that we only have 2 leaders to cover all our tasks.

If you would like to have a try at the leadership rôle, please get in touch.

The rôle of leader involves collecting the group car and suitable tools from the garage in Uffington Drive, then supervising activities on site. Any new leader can count on the unstinting support of the other leaders and the rangers.

What's on

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "Urban Ecology" by **Professor Mark Fellowes**

Monday 15 April 2019

19:30 – 21:30

South Hill Park, Recital Room, £1 members, £3 for non-members.

See poster:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/2019AprUrbanEcology.pdf>

Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

Monitoring Dormice, a talk by Ian White from the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme

Tuesday 16 April 2019

19:30 – 21:30

BBOWT Education Centre, Woolley Firs, Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead SL6 3LJ
(£2 donation per person)

See poster:



A4 Poster - Wildlife
Trusts Dormice Talk -

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Conservation work at Shepherds Meadow (clearing fallen mature oak trees, fence installation and repairs, re-installing water trough). Meet at designated car park off A321 Marshall Road.

Sunday 21 April 2019

start 10:15

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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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