



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **94**

09 May 2019

What we've been doing

30 April 2019

Westmorland Park

We repaired a finger post, which required some extensive chiselling:



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We repaired a sign near the sundial. Other members weeded cleared areas around veteran oak trees ready for putting mulch down. Hoes were provided for removing weeds, which made the job much easier.

20 volunteers attended, and we were pleased to welcome 2 new volunteers. The weather was overcast at first, getting sunnier as the day progressed. Temperature was about 10°C.

One veteran oak tree was measured as having a girth of 5.6m, although the tree did appear to have been pollarded at some time, which might have increased the apparent girth.



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Cowslips (*Primula veris*) were in flower. There were a few cuckoo flowers (*Cardamine pratensis*) by the pond. Rowan and hawthorn trees were flowering. Orange-tip and brimstone butterflies were flying.

Terns were diving in the pond (probably common terns).

7 May 2019

Napier woods

We removed a large amount of rubbish which had been fly-tipped along the fence line forming the boundary for some houses. There was a remarkable variety of rubbish, including a garden table and 3 chairs and a portable toilet. At least 2 trailer loads of rubbish were removed by the ranger, this would have been equivalent to more than 2 tons.



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We also cut regrowth of laurel and other understory growth which had been cut previously. The ranger asked us to avoid cutting taller trees because of disturbance to nesting birds. We welcomed 17 volunteers; the weather was bright with sunny periods.

Coming up next

14 May 2019

Westmorland Park

Bird box building. Meet in the designated car park:

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

Note: this is a site change.

21 May 2019

Church Hill Park

Mulch trees, boundary hedge and rubbish management. Park in Babbage Way:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=486341&Y=167391&Z=106>

Annual General Meeting

The proposed date for the 2019 Annual General Meeting of BCV is Tuesday 4 June, at Lily Hill Park. A draft agenda has been circulated to the group, so please think about any items you would like to have discussed.

Napier Woods

Napier Woods is an area of mostly Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) woodland, with holly understory. It lies in the northern part of Crowthorne, bounded by Napier Road/Napier Close and Upper Broadmoor Road. I have been unable to find any information on the history of this woodland. Some trees appear to have been pollarded in the past. We did not see any veteran trees. The ground flora is not very diverse, and there is a large amount of invading bracken. We did not see bluebells. Escaped garden plants (*Lamium galeobdolon* ssp. *argentatum* and *Crocsmia* sp.) are present. The invasive plant three-cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*) is present. Laurel is much in evidence. We found woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) close to a boundary fence, which might suggest that this is old woodland, although this could be a garden throwout. Woodruff is an ancient woodland indicator (AWI) plant.

For many of us, our task on 7 May was our first trip to Napier Woods. Some of our longer-serving members remembered visiting this site previously.

BCV visited Napier Woods on 22 February 2011. We burned some dumped fence panels and cut and burned holly and other growth from along the path. 6 volunteers attended.

We then made a second visit on 22 November 2011, when we cut back laurel and holly and burned cleared material on a bonfire. 9 volunteers attended.

It is curiously difficult to find information about Napier Woods online. One of the few items available is this picture taken in 2009:

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1217394>

What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

A tree recording walk at Englemere Pond

Monday 13 May 2019

14:00 – 16:00

Englemere Pond, meet at designated car park on Swinley Road

SL5 8BA

Grid ref: **SU905685**

Jealotts Hill Community Landshare

Friends and Family Fete (stalls, refreshments, plant sales, 6-acre site to explore, displays on bees, moths and other insects)

Saturday 18 May 2019

12:00 – 16:00

Jealotts Hill Community Landshare, Wellers Lane, at the jct of Penfurzen Lane, Warfield RG42 6BQ

See poster:



Friends & Family
Fete poster.pdf

Warfield Environment Group

Bat box building at Jealotts Hill Friends and Family Fete (see details above)

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on “**The Return of Large Carnivores**” by **Dr. Adriana Consorte McCrea**, conservation biologist at Canterbury Christ Church University

Monday 20 May 2019

19:30 – 21:30

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

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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