



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **96**

6 June 2019

What we've been doing

28 May 2019

Lily Hill Park

The task today was to make a start on constructing three roofed sheds (equipment ports) to house the machinery used for hay-making: tractor, baler and spinner (tedder).

Postholes 800 mm deep were excavated to house the structures. The frames were put together in the yard of the Lodge and then carried round for erection. The ground was sloping, so some remedial work was needed to keep the frames level when fitted to the holes.



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As an alternative task, some other volunteers weeded around the fruit trees in the orchard. 19 volunteers attended. The weather was cloudy with a hint of rain.

4 June 2019

Lily Hill Park

We continued with the task of constructing the equipment ports. Again, frames were put together in the yard of the Lodge and then carried round the corner for erection.

A large heap of scalpings had been delivered, and this was spread over the floor area of the equipment ports using barrows, shovels and rakes.

Some volunteers continued with the work of making bird nestboxes which had been started in our earlier sessions at Lily Hill Park.

At coffee time we had our Annual General Meeting in the shelter near the orchard.

Nineteen volunteers attended. The weather was cloudy and chilly, about 15°C.

Coming up next

11 June 2019

Shepherds Meadow

Wildflower surveying and recording for Bioblitz. Meet in designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484861&Y=160696&Z=110>

18 June 2019

Long Hill Park

Removing redundant boardwalk and replacing with raised path. Meet in the designated car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=489343&Y=169309&Z=110>

Xylella fastidiosa and “cuckoo spit”

The bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* has not yet been seen in the UK, but it is expected to reach us at some time. The disease has devastated olive orchards in southern Europe. If it does spread to the UK it is thought likely that *Xylella* could have significant adverse effects on many of our native trees, including ash and oak.

Xylella is thought to be spread by froghoppers (or spittlebugs) which produce the familiar “cuckoo spit” which is common on many plants in our gardens and in the wild. You can help research into spittlebugs by submitting recordings of sightings to:

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/xylem-feeding-insects>

Litter in canals and waterways

About 14 million pieces of plastic end up in canals and waterways every year, according to the Canal and Rivers Trust. Volunteers for the Trust spend more than 100,000 hours clearing litter from towpaths and canals each year. The Trust says that canals could be litter-free within a year if every visitor picked up one piece of litter.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-48516745?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment&link_location=live-reporting-story

What's on

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "The Life of the Glow Worm" by **John Tyler**

Monday 17 June 2019

19:30 – 21:30

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

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Caesar's Camp Nightjar Walk

Friday 21 June 2019

20:00 – 22:30

Meet at the Look-Out Car Park (charges apply) next to the Bike Hub, cost £3.99

Book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nightjar-walk-at-caesars-camp-tickets-60117698655>

National Trust

Re-chalking the White Horse at Uffington

Saturday 6 / Sunday 7 July

10:00 – 16:00

Sunday 25 / Monday 26 August

10:00 – 16:00

White Horse Hill, Uffington SN7 7QJ

Tel: 01793 762209

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