



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **97**

27 June 2019

What we've been doing

11 June 2019

Shepherd Meadows

We had to cancel the task today. Heavy rain had flooded the Meadows, and it was considered impossible to carry out the task of wildflower surveying. In fact, there were not many wildflowers to survey; the recent cold wet weather had delayed flowering of many species.

This is very unusual in BCV history, in fact I could not find any instances of a task being cancelled from scratch in our records dating back to 2010.

18 June 2019

Long Hill Park

Southern marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) were in flower at Long Hill Park:



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A boardwalk was needing frequent repairs, and was considered to have become surplus to requirements. Here, volunteers discuss how best to remove it:



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We removed this boardwalk and started placing sleepers to mark the edge of the new raised path. We used the old posts to support the edging for the path.

Other volunteers removed a dead willow and other trees which had fallen over a nearby path:



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We also removed a large quantity of invasive *Lonicera* (probably *Lonicera tatarica*) from woodland at the edge of the park, and removed tree guards from some trees BCV had planted on an earlier occasion.

After removal of the boardwalk, we cleared vegetation encroaching on the line of the new path.

The weather was warm with sunny periods. There was some fairly light rain later.

21 volunteers attended.

25 June 2019

Long Hill Park

We continued with the work on the path replacing a boardwalk which was removed last week. The first job was to complete the side edging to the path using sleepers and posts retained from the boardwalk.

A large pile of stone (type I scalplings) had been delivered to the site, and the next task was to shovel this into wheelbarrows and barrow it to the path. This was a very hard job; volunteers formed themselves into teams to fill barrows and transport the scalplings to the path, while other volunteers raked and tamped the stone on the path.



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Further work was also done on clearing vegetation, mostly brambles, from the edge of the path.

After lunch, another load of type I was delivered by the BFC ranger. In this case we were able to tip the stone directly from the ranger's trailer into wheelbarrows for building up the path surface.

Other volunteers put up a number of nestboxes, small size (suitable for blue tits) and worked on clearing laurel from the woods.

21 volunteers were present. The weather was overcast but warm and muggy.

Coming up next

2 July 2019

Farningham Ride

Path laying and vegetation clearance. Meet up at top end of Mendip Road:

Roadside parking on Mendip Road between Axbridge and Oareborough junctions.
Alternative parking in Nuthurst.

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488294&Y=167792&Z=106>

9 July 2019

Westmorland Park

Bramble clearance. Meet in the designated car park:

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

Wild flower meadows in Bath

The National Trust have created wild flower meadows in Bath and are sowing the meadows with the seed of yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). Conditions of low fertility are beneficial for wild flowers, because they are able to grow without being out-competed by vigorous grasses and other species. Yellow rattle is a semi-parasite, which feeds partly on the roots of other plant species, reducing the vigour of growth.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-48608968>

[Thanks to Michael J. Norton for providing this item]

What's on

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

Maintenance session at Nightingale Triangle

Saturday 6 July 2019

10:00 – 12:00

Street parking in Firlands

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

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

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