



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **99**

25 July 2019

What we've been doing

16 July 2019

Harvest Hill

There are a number of ponds in the woodland at Harvest Hill. One task today was to dig an overflow pond with a drainage ditch leading to the main pond. The digging was hard work because of the heavy clay not far below the surface and the large number of tree roots. Spades, forks and mattocks had to be used.

Other volunteers donned waders and wellies and cleared the existing ponds of leaves and blanket weed. The material removed from the ponds was extremely smelly!

One section of boardwalk by the main pond was found to need repair.

17 volunteers attended. The weather was sunny and muggy, the shade beneath the trees was very welcome. Many volunteers suffered insect bites despite using insect repellent.



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On 20 July, one of our volunteers visited the site at Harvest Hill and found that there was about 5 inches of water in the pond we had dug, the drainage ditch was full of water and water levels in the other ponds had been raised.

23 July 2019

Garth Pond/Meadow

The first task was to remove any Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) from around Garth Pond and on the stream banks. Another 2 groups had previously worked removing balsam on this site, so in most places there was not a large amount of balsam, but various isolated clumps were removed. Some tidying up of overhanging branches was also done and brambles and nettles were removed from the path. Volunteers donned waders and cleared obstructions from the stream near the bridge.

After lunch, the group moved over the road to Garth Meadow and did some botanical surveying. Some volunteers found it too hot to work in the meadow.

The weather was sunny and very muggy. Temperature was 23°C at 10:00, but had risen to at least the high 20s by the afternoon.

Eighteen volunteers attended.



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Coming up next

30 July 2019

Northerams Wood

Pond lining and bug hotel construction.

Meet in the Great Hollands allotment car park. There is usually ample parking here:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=485240&Y=167891&Z=106>

6 August 2019

Westmorland Park

Bramble clearance, vegetation control. Cutting and raking wildflower bank & loggery installation. Meet in the designated car park:

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

20 years with BCV

Our Chairman Richard Elsbury has completed 20 years working with BCV. The group was formed 25 years ago. I am sure everybody will join me in thanking Richard for his work as Chairman and task leader.

Richard is not the longest-serving member: at least 2 other volunteers have been with the group for longer.

Some of us went to the Downshire Arms on 23 July for a meal generously funded by Richard, and then some went on to the Old Manor in Bracknell.

Big Butterfly Count

From website:

"The Big Butterfly Count is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 100,000 people took part in 2018, submitting 97,133 counts of butterflies and day-flying moths from across the UK (see [all the 2018 results](#)).

*The **Big Butterfly Count** 2019 will take place from Friday 19 July - Sunday 11 August."*

<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

Week of walks

From Monday 29 July to Sunday 4 August 2019, the Bracknell Forest Society is organising a week of very varied walks around Bracknell, including evening and daytime walks.

See programme:



wow2019.pdf

See the Bracknell Forest Society website for this and other events:

<http://www.thebracknellforestsociety.org.uk/>

What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

Pond dipping in Blackmoor Pond

Wednesday 31 July 2019

16:30 – 17:30

See below for details:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wildlifeinascot/home>

National Trust

Re-chalking the White Horse at Uffington

Sunday 25 / Monday 26 August

10:00 – 16:00

White Horse Hill, Uffington SN7 7QJ

Tel: 01793 762209

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on **Bracknell Biodiversity/Help a Hog**
with Marlies Boydell, Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Officer

Monday September 16 2019

start 19:30

South Hill Park

For details see:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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