



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **112**

27 February 2020

What we've been doing

18 February 2020

Nightingale Triangle

We cleared brambles and saplings from a sloping bank bordering the footpath to the underpass under Bagshot Road. Some coppicing of chestnuts was also done. The cleared material was burnt on a bonfire.

17 volunteers attended. The weather was bright and sunny with a chilly breeze, unfortunately it began to rain quite heavily as we were clearing up after the task.



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Lesser celandines (*Ranunculus ficaria*) were flowering on the bank we were clearing. These are among the first flowers of Spring, usually first seen at the end of February or the beginning of March.



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25 February 2020

Wildmoor Heath

We met in the main car park off the Crowthorne Road. There was a fairly long walk to the site, which was on low-lying heathland to the East of the pylon line, within view of the A3095 Rackstraw Road.

The task was heathland clearance, removing Scots pine, gorse and some birch from among the heather. Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire. The ground was very uneven, with deep ditches which could not be seen under the vegetation. Dragging material to the bonfire was very difficult because of the terrain. However, we made a noticeable difference to the site: we cleared a substantial area of heath.

The weather was overcast, but luckily the rain kept off most of the day, although we did have a shower towards the end of the session. 15 volunteers attended.



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Coming up next

3 March 2020

Peacock Meadow/West Garden Copse

Hazel coppicing (West Garden Copse) and chestnut fencing (Tarmans Copse).

(Note: the BFC ranger has requested a sub-group for chestnut fencing in Tarmans Copse)

Meet in the designated car park at Swift Fields. There is usually ample parking here.

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484463&Y=168018&Z=106>

RG12 8BP

SU844680

10 March 2020

Nine Mile Ride/Madingley

Rhododendron clearance.

Street parking in Madingley.

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=486834&Y=166202&Z=106>

RG12 7TP

SU868662

A revolution in tree management

Turner's oak (*Quercus x turneri 'Pseudoturneri'*) is a hybrid evergreen oak. A famous specimen at Kew was blown right out of the ground in the Great Storm of 1987, and settled back more or less in the same spot. So much other work needed to be done in the aftermath of the storm at Kew that the tree was left for 3 years before being re-examined. To the surprise of everyone, the tree was a picture of health, and had clearly benefitted from being blown out of the ground. This led to the realisation that trees suffer if the soil around their roots becomes compacted, and will benefit from the increase in available water and oxygen if the soil is loosened up. This event has had a profound effect on tree management worldwide, which now focuses much more on reducing compaction.

Listen to the podcast by Tony Kirkham, head of the Arboretum at Royal Botanic Garden Kew:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p081llyy>

There is a Turner's oak by the entrance to the Wordsworth car park in Great Hollands. It has the habit of dropping all its leaves at unpredictable intervals, but seems to thrive anyway.

What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

Help to maintain our public wildflower beds.

Friday 28 February 2020

11:00 – 12:00

Victoria Road side of South Ascot recreation area, SL5 7DG

Quiz night (in aid of the bell ringers of St. Mary's Church Winkfield)

Saturday 29 February 2020

19:00

St Martin's Hall, Church Rd, Chavey Down, Ascot SL5 8RR

Including ploughmans supper, bring your own bottle./Teams of up to 4 people.

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on **Heathlands Underground** by Dr Martin Bidartondo

Monday 16 March 2020

19:00 for 19:30

South Hill Park

Warfield Environment Group

Great British Spring Clean Community Litter Pick

Saturday 21 March 2020

10:30 – 12:00

Meet at Larks Hill car park

See poster:



community litter pick
poster 210320.pdf

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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