



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **114**

09 July 2020

What we were going to do

17 March 2020

Westmorland Park

All tasks cancelled because of coronavirus emergency

Some of us turned up for our task on Tuesday 17 March at Westmorland Park, to be told that our tasks were to be cancelled because of the coronavirus emergency.

Spring was still happening. These primroses were growing at Nightingale Triangle:



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What we have been doing post-lockdown

South Hill Park

23/30 June 2020

Amphitheatre

BCV spent 3 consecutive weeks in May 2011 reconstructing the amphitheatre. At least 3 of our current members took part in that task. The 2011 amphitheatre was a replacement for some discs of giant redwood trunk which had been used as seating.

This time we spent 2 weeks reconstructing the South Hill Park amphitheatre, which consists of 2 tiers of grass bank seating supported by boards held in place by posts. Some of the posts and boards had rotted, and the grass banks were slumping downhill in places. Volunteers had to remove old woodwork and replace posts and boards, then fill in around the gaps.



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Alternative tasks

Other volunteers did some clearance of vegetation around the amphitheatre.

Weeding was done around a number of trees to maintain cleared areas under the canopy, and woodchip was spread on these areas.

Some extensive weeding was done in the rose garden by South Hill Park house; the beds had become extremely overgrown during lockdown.



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These 2 task sessions also served as “rehearsals” to gauge how easy it is to comply with social distancing guidance. The site of the amphitheatre is relatively little frequented by the general public, so was thought to be a good site to start. 20 and 16 volunteers attended on the two weeks, and readily formed themselves into groups of about 6. Because of the emergency, tea and biscuits were not provided, volunteers brought their own drinks.

South Hill Park/Horseshoe Lake 7 July 2020

South Hill Park

10 volunteers attended. Some continued with the task of weeding under trees and spreading woodchip. We finished work around a mature oak tree, and also around a young oak and a walnut tree which had been planted as a commemorative tree. Other volunteers continued with the weeding in the rose garden.

We were unable to work on one tree because a group of picnickers were in close proximity. We had an early lunch, then continued doing some more weeding in the rose garden.

Horseshoe Lake

11 volunteers cleared invasive Himalayan Balsam from areas around the main car park and beyond the car park towards the river. A substantial amount of vegetation was cleared and piled to prevent further spread.

What's on?

Not a lot, generally, but you might be interested in:

The Big Butterfly Count 2020

Citizen science survey of butterflies, **Friday 17 July to Sunday 9 August.**

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/about>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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