



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **117** 8 October 2020

What we've been doing

29 September 2020

Wykery Copse

We coppiced hazel in area 3 of Wykery Copse. This is part of a planned policy of restoring the copse to its former status as coppiced woodland. Coppiced material was retrieved for hedge stakes/binders as appropriate.

Some volunteers constructed "wigwams" from twigs around coppiced stools with the aim of preventing damage from deer.

Previous work on this site had resulted in untidy piles of vegetation: this was cleared up and collected in stacks to form habitat piles.

Volunteer Denis Crampton visited: he unfortunately has a serious back problem and is not able to work on our tasks at the moment.

15 volunteers attended, the weather was initially drizzly and then mostly cleared up, although there were some light showers which had not been forecast by the BBC.



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6 October 2020

Savernake Park

We formed into three subgroups of about 6. One group made hurdles from hazel stakes and binders. Some of the materials used were already on site, others were obtained from the other 2 subgroups. The hurdles were intended to create barriers to protect future plantings of heather from geese. The geese were noisily in evidence as we were working.

The other 2 subgroups carried out coppicing and shrub clearance to improve the view of the pond. There were some willow coppices which proved to be harder to cut than hazel.

Cleared material which was not suitable for hurdle making was used to rebuild a dead hedge across a desire line path in woodland, not far from the official footpath around the pond.

The weather was better than expected: rain had been forecast, but mostly held off apart from a few spots.

A large turnout of 19 volunteers attended.



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Coming up next

13 October 2020

Newt Reserve/Garth Meadows

Vegetation management.

Meet at Larks Hill car park: one group of 6 will go to the newt reserve and the rest to Garth Meadows.

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=487084&y=170808&z=106>

RG42 2QA

SU870708

20 October 2020

Westmorland Park

The group will divide into three pods: one constructing a bug hotel, one building a compost bin and the third doing vegetation clearance.

Meet at designated car park for Westmorland Park, there is usually ample room here.

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

RG42 3QW

SU886708

State of the world's plants

The 2020 report on the state of the world's plants and fungi from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew has been published:

<https://www.kew.org/science/state-of-the-worlds-plants-and-fungi>

Report as PDF:

<https://www.kew.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/State%20of%20the%20Worlds%20Plants%20and%20Fungi%202020.pdf>

The overall conclusion is very alarming: 2 in 5 of the world's plants are at risk of extinction.

Invasive plants

Plant Alert is a citizen science initiative to report invasive garden plants:

www.plantalert.org

The current summary of most commonly reported invasive plants is at:

<https://plantalert.org/results.php>

It will come as no surprise to BCV members that Himalayan balsam is at No. 2 on the list.

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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