



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **126**

20 May 2021

What we've been doing

11 May 2021

School Hill

The primary task was clearing vegetation from a pond which BCV built in June 2011. The pond has been dry recently, so the plan was to investigate the state of the liner and probably remove pending replacement.

Many newts were found, and a few frogs. The newts were initially thought to be great crested newts, but were later identified as smooth newts, the commonest newt species.

It was therefore decided to leave the liner in place with the small pool at the bottom, and to clear around the edge of the liner.

The other members of the group cleared holly and laurel saplings from the woodland nearby.

BCV scythed the meadow near the pond on 21 August 2018, but it is now heavily overgrown with evergreen alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) an attractive but invasive relative of the forget-me-not.

13 volunteers attended. the weather was overcast with sunny spells and the odd shower.



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18 May 2021

Garth Pond

We started in the morning with Himalayan balsam pulling near the pond and along the river bank. The plants were very small, making it difficult to find them, especially since many of them were hidden in a thick growth of nettles. Some of the slopes leading down to the river are very steep, making it even more difficult to access, although some keen volunteers donned waders to clear by the river..

Some other patches of balsam were found and cleared after lunch. Many volunteers moved back to Larks Hill after lunch and worked on clearing vegetation around young trees in a planted hedgerow.

18 volunteers attended, a very good turnout in view of the forecast of heavy rain.

The weather was overcast and pleasantly warm, very good weather for working in. Unfortunately we had a heavyish shower of rain at lunchtime. There was some even heavier rain later, which may have caught volunteers on their way home.



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Coming up next

25 May 2021

Mill Lane and Babbage Way

Tasks: boundary tree work, split chestnut fencing replacement, boundary vegetation removal.

1 June 2021

Lily Hill Park

Tasks: replace knee rail around veteran oak; replace dams in ditches; ivy removal from trees

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