



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 2

30 November 2016

What we've been doing

29 November 2016

Longhill Park

Leader: Graham Coe

BFC ranger: Rob Solomon

The task was to clear rhododendron from under oak, birch and pine woodland not far from Milman Close. 14 volunteers attended. We were pleased to welcome 2 volunteers from IHS Markit in Bracknell. It was a cold day with an early frost, but bright and sunny.

Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire.

Our Tools Coordinator Michael J Norton Esq. has spent £90 on new bowsaws, so we now have saws which work!. Unfortunately Mick cut his finger with one of the new saws. First aid was given on site.

Roger and Maggie Britt (RB/MB) reported back on the Lily Hill Steering Group meeting, see below.

RB showed round draft versions of the proposed newsletter for BCV. Any comments will be gratefully received.

Previous visits

BCV last visited Longhill Park on 26 July 2016. We cleared bamboo and laurel near Milman Close and trailed the material away.

Longhill Park

Longhill Park is 9 hectares (23 acres) of former landfill which has been reclaimed and landscaped. The park has been designated a Local Wildlife Site because of its important wildlife:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/longhillpark>

Coming up next

6 December

Northerams Wood

Rhododendron and laurel clearance

Lily Hill Park Steering Group

Don Petford has served on this Steering Group for some time. He is now standing down. RB/MB will attend meetings of the Group as BCV representative.

RB and MB attended the meeting of the group on 24 November. Don came with us and introduced us to the Group.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Iain McCracken.

The organisational structure of the Heritage Parks [Lily Hill Park and South Hill Park] has been slightly modified. Kath Moss is now Heritage Parks Manager for both parks.

Kath specifically thanked BCV for their work in repairing the amphitheatre in Lily Hill Park.

Lily Hill Park is to be designated a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) to offset the Bracknell Town Centre regeneration. Substantial funding will be received from the developers. This funding can only be used for capital projects, not routine operational expenses. New projects may include new interpretative signing and path improvements.

RB asked about the 2 Low's firs which were purchased by BCV to replace the tree which came down. These trees are still in quarantine after about 2 years. Kath Moss will ask John Morris, BFC Ranger, what is happening with these trees.

Lily Hill Park is considering an application from a mobile catering unit to be placed in the park. RB asked about litter, since BCV have found that litter is a major problem. The litter issue is being addressed.

A new contractor has been engaged to carry out meadow cuts. The previous contractor was unable to complete the tasks assigned.

Visitor numbers to Lily Hill Park are now estimated to be about 95,000 per annum.

Gillian Martin (Bracknell Forest Natural History Society) asked about progress with the Veteran Tree Survey within BCV.

The next meeting will be in about 6 months' time.

Thanks from Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild, which Richard's wife is part of, has thanked BCV for their work at Lily Hill Park:

"Please tell Richard that he and his crew have done a great job with the campfire circle at Lily Hill, it looks great!!"

<http://girlguidingseberks.btck.co.uk/Trefoil>

Christmas shopping

If you are looking for tree-themed Xmas gifts, try the Woodland Trust:

<http://www.woodlandtrustshop.com/>

Butterfly numbers crash

The Big Butterfly Count has shown that numbers of many common butterflies in the UK have decreased substantially in 2016, although numbers of Red Admiral and Green-veined White increased. The reasons for this are unknown.

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/48-13538/mystery-of-butterfly-disaster-summer.html>

What's On

Eco Christmas trees

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) offer Scots Pine Christmas Trees at Wildmoor Heath. This not only helps to clear invasive species from heathland, but Scots Pine doesn't drop its needles. Recipients are asked to make a suitable donation. All proceeds go to BBOWT.

Saturday/Sunday 10/11 December 2016

11.00 - 15.00

Edgbarrow Woods Car Park/Wildmoor Heath RG45 7PP

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/events/2016/12/10/wildmoor-heath-christmas-tree-sale>

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

"Roadside Verges"

Monday December 5

19.30 – 21.30

South Hill Park (recital room)

£3 for non-members

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

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Orchard Pruning

Saturday December 17

10.30 – 13.30

Meet at Larks Hill Car Park, Harvest Ride RG42 2QD

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/pc-events-prog-nov-2016-to-april-2017.pdf>

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