



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 5

21 December 2016

## What we've been doing

**20 December 2016**

**Whitegrove Copse**

**Leader:** Richard Elsbury

**BFC ranger:** Liz Vango-Smith

The group laid a hedge along the ditch by Top Common. Other volunteers coppiced three trees close to the path and pulled bramble to provide open areas to encourage wildflowers and other wildlife. 12 volunteers attended. Brambles were unusually easy to pull, perhaps because of the recent wet weather.

### *Previous visits*

BCV last visited Whitegrove Copse on 25 November 2014, when the group coppiced 18 hazel trees.

On 3 January 2012, BCV started coppicing at Whitegrove Copse in a high wind. The task had to be called off after a tree fell without warning. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

## Whitegrove copse

This is an area of ancient woodland, dating from at least 1600. The copse was formerly part of the Holly Spring Estate, and was managed as cover for deer and pheasants. It has been managed by Bracknell Forest Council since 1996. The site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Local Wildlife Site (LWS). An active programme of management by hazel coppicing is carried out by BCV and other conservation groups.

See:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/whitegrove-copse.pdf>

## Coming up next

**3 January 2017**

**Englemere Pond**

Scrub clearance.

## From the archives – 3 years ago

On 10 December 2013 BCV were at Tinkers Copse, coppicing hazel.

The leader was Richard Elsbury. Current volunteers present included Jon Munday, Barbara Jerome, Helen Gatehouse and Michael Norton.

## New road from Quelm Park to Forest Road

The Woodhurst Park development in Binfield, north of Harvest Ride and south of Forest Road west of Lark's Hill is proceeding at some pace. The developers have now published details of the roadworks which will be put in place to build the new road which will connect the Quelm Park roundabout to Forest Ride. This will run close to the edge of Lark's Hill, and presumably will cross Watersplash Lane at some point. A new roundabout will be built on Forest Road and the Three Legged Cross junction will be given traffic lights.

Roadworks will run from 9 January 2017 to 13 April 2017. A Notification of Highway Works has been published in the Bracknell News, 14 December 2016.

BCV has done a lot of work in this area. We were there on 8 December 2015, when we did hegelaying along Watersplash Lane.

See a map at:

[http://warfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Warfield\\_concept\\_plan\\_doc.pdf](http://warfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Warfield_concept_plan_doc.pdf)

## BBOWT impact 2016

The local wildlife trust, BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) has published its Conservation Impact Report for 2016:

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/BBOWT%20Conservation%20Impact%20Report.pdf>

## Thames Basin Heaths Partnership

Since 2011 the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) has been running the My Heathland education initiative, in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council. The aim of the project is to educate the local community about the important heathland habitats to the south of Bracknell.

BBOWT is now handing over the project to the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership.

See:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/thamesbasinheathspartnership/>

## Coppicing

The warden of the BBOWT Warburg Nature Reserve near Henley explains the benefits of coppicing:

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/charcoal>

## What's On

### ***Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) –Big Garden Birdwatch***

Every year, the RSPB asks people to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. You are asked to record the birds in your garden for a period of 1 hour on 28-30 January 2017. This gives valuable data on garden bird numbers. From 14 December you can register for a free Big Garden Birdwatch pack.

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>

### ***Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside***

Traditional Orchard Wassail at Lily Hill Park.

Saturday 14 January 2017

19:00 – 20:30

Meet at the orchard, follow the glow-sticks from the north car park, off Lily Hill Road, Bracknell, RG12 2RX.

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

### ***Jealott's Hill Community Landshare***

Wassail and bonfire

Sunday 29 January 2017

13:15 guided walk through local countryside (book on 07867 695931 or e-mail [jhcl.landshare@hotmail.com](mailto:jhcl.landshare@hotmail.com))

14:30 Wassail ceremony in orchard and bonfire

Wellers Lane, Warfield RG42 6BQ, off the A330 Maidenhead-Ascot road.

<http://www.jealottshilllandshare.org.uk/>

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
Year for 2017**

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