



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 11

08 February 2017

## What we've been doing

**7 February 2017**

**Osmans Close**

**Leader: Richard Elsbury**

**BFC ranger: Rob Solomon**

The task was thinning out holly trees and some laurel. Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire. The small patch of woodland here is made up chiefly of fairly young oak trees, most apparently less than 100 years old, but holly trees have grown up and excluded the light. The wood is home to the silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), which needs both oak trees and violets for the caterpillars. Consequently the aim is to allow light to penetrate under the oak canopy to encourage ground flora such as violets.

See: <http://butterfly-conservation.org/679-780/silver-washed-fritillary.html>

Ten volunteers attended. The weather was dry and sunny, with an occasional light wind. It was a beautiful day for early February.

### ***Previous visits***

The last recorded visit to Osmans Close was on August 11 2009. The task was described as "woodland improvement project". The ranger was Marie-Anne Phillips, leader was Mike Dawson.

### ***Osmans Close***

This is 1.56ha (3.85acres) of ancient woodland, although most of the trees now present on site do not appear to be ancient. Osmans Close is one of a series of copses (including Piggy Wood and Whitegrove Copse) which form an important nature reserve and corridor for wildlife. The reserve is owned by Bracknell Forest Council.

See: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/?woodId=23560&woodName=osmans-close-woodland>

## Coming up next

**14 February 2017**

**Shepherd Meadows**

Scrub clearance.

## **Christmas outing/bushcraft activities**

BCV Christmas Outing will be on 14 March 2017. Activities will include wood whittling, fire lighting, baking bread over a campfire (including lunch) and setting up tarpaulins and hammocks. The day will be spent at Hayley Green woods, which has the advantage of toilets being available at Westmorland Park.

## **What's on**

### ***Bracknell Forest Society***

"The Bracknell Town Regeneration", talk by Councillor Marc Brunel-Walker, executive member for economic development and regeneration.

Bracknell Rugby Club            Lily Hill Drive, RG12 2UG

Friday 10 March 2017            20:00

All welcome, bar and raffle.

### ***South Hill Park***

Community Litter Pick

Thursday 23 March                    10:00-11:00

Meet at courtyard in front of SHP reception, Ringmead, Bracknell RG12 7PA

*Produced by Roger Britt. Send any contributions/comments to [rogerbritt@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerbritt@btinternet.com)*